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*To record good ends  
and attention to his studies  
presented to Mr. S. Best  
by his friend and Son.*

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LAPLAND,

AND ITS

REIN-DEER.



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LAPLAND  
AND ITS  
REIN-DEER;  
WITH  
SOME ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
MANNERS, CUSTOMS, AND PECULIARITIES  
OF ITS  
INHABITANTS.

LONDON:  
DARTON AND HARVEY,  
GRACECHURCH STREET.

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1835.





THIS little volume is affectionately dedicated to the children of one of the author's earliest and most valued friends. It will easily be perceived how largely she is indebted to Clarke, and other travellers, for its materials. But her object will be in part attained, if she should encourage in her young readers that spirit of rational enquiry which can, in all situations, confer true pleasure ; attained completely, should she prove in any degree the humble means of directing their thoughts "from nature up to nature's God."



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# L A P L A N D, &c.

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## CHAPTER I.

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Island of Ceylon—Amusements of the Children—  
Journey from Colombo to Simla — Scarcity of  
Water — Natural Productions—Winter on the  
Himalaya Mountains—Evening Amusements—  
Love of Home.

LITTLE MARIAN, and her two brothers, Edward and Richard, saw snow for the first time at Simla, which is situated on the lower range of the Himalaya mountains; that great chain of “everlasting hills” which separates India from Tartary.

These children had all been born in the tropical island of Ceylon; but they had been brought up with a hardihood that made them

brave ; and they rejoiced in the keen air of the hills. Ice had been sent for them to see as a curiosity, from the higher parts of Ceylon to Columbo, where they had principally lived ; and while it lasted, it was as great a treasure in their eyes, as the many precious stones that are found amidst the sand and gravel of the rivers in the island, or the fine pearls that are fished up from the sea on its coasts. They had roved in the gardens where the cinnamon-trees grew ; fine apartments had been formed for them of the broad leaves of the talipot-tree ; they had sat under the tall cocoas ; their lamps had been lighted with the oil, and they had often drank the refreshing milk of its clustering nuts. Marian had had a young elephant of her own, and stroked its little proboscis with her tiny hands, while she was yet almost a baby herself. These children's eyes were familiar with the splendid birds, and they had looked with curious regard at the venom-

ous serpents, and the ravenous beasts of their native isle. Amongst the triumphs of civilization, they had seen the broad road, like the Roman causeways of old, which led to the interior of the island, tunnelling its way under the rock, throwing open to light and air, in its course, the dark forest and the thick and marshy jungle: and they had looked at the noble bridge, which might have had ebony, and kalamander, and sandal-wood amongst its frame-work, so common in Ceylon that they could never have guessed how much these hard and fragrant woods are prized in other countries. But though they had visited with their mamma the schools on the coast where little native children were taught the knowledge of the true God, in Marian and Edward and Richard's own English tongue, they were all three too young to comprehend at once that this fine road was "preparing the way" for the good teachers to win the poor Cingalese from

their false and monstrous worship of Buddha, and of the great gods of eastern paganism.

Marian was not nine years old, and both her brothers were still younger, when they crossed the sea from Ceylon to Ceylan; and then journeyed twelve hundred miles up the country to Samla, going part of the way on the broad Ganges, towed by a steam-boat, and traversing the remainder in carriages, or on horseback, or in palanquins, many on the day resting, when the sun grew hot, in tents which had been sent forward and pitched for their reception.

After three months of this wandering life, they had reached Samla, where they were to remain with their mamma, during the infrequent visits which their papa was obliged to make in the different parts of the great western Peninsula, when lay within the circle of his command.

It was late in the summer when they reached their destined home. Their house was seven thousand feet above the level of the sea, and

above, below, and around them, they had mountains on every side, so crowded together, and so precipitous, that it was difficult even to find a level spot to build a house upon. Water alone was wanting for the complete comfort of their situation; the two only springs from which it was to be obtained were a mile and a half from the house; so that mules were kept constantly going to and fro to supply the daily consumption: and there were no trickling, murmuring streams to sparkle in the sun-beams, and give life and freshness to the scene; there was no rushing torrent to add the charm of impetuous flow, and roaring, eddying waters, dashing over, or sweeping round the dark stones that check their course; no still lake with its glassy surface, to reflect in its calm beauty the majestic scenery around; no sheltered pool, where the quiet cattle might stand and refresh themselves at noontide. Yet, besides that

the Indus and the Ganges spring from these lofty sources, the melted snows must filter through the soil, silent and unseen; or the dark caverns must hold reservoirs within them, to nourish the thousands of lofty trees and flowering shrubs which cover the sides of these hills with foliage, and the lovely carpet of blossoms which clothe them with brightness and verdure.

Accustomed to the showy and aromatic flowers of Ceylon, Marian looked with delight on the wreathing woodbine, and the scentless violet, and the humble daisy; nay, even the garish dandelion, profusely as it was scattered, was all beauty to her: her mother hailed them as friends of other days, and other climes—they all reminded her of her far-distant English home.

There were wild apricots, and peaches, apples, raspberries, and currants, to delight the children; but these are all far inferior to

what cultivation has rendered them in England. They looked forward in gay anticipation of the spring, when the rhododendrons, which grow there to large timber-trees, should hang out their immense bunches of bright crimson flowers ; forming a rich contrast, with their dark green leaves and splendid blossoms, to the pure and dazzling whiteness of the snowy range above them. There were fir-trees of every variety ; and the oak, though not of the same kind as that of Great Britain, flourishes there. Fancy even painted for them the scenes which charm in our own country ; for though the bright and moving waters are wanting, and the ruin which tells of glory past, yet the clouds themselves hang about the mountains, sometimes looking like castles, and sometimes like large lakes.

When winter set in, and the snow came down thickly, the children seemed never tired of watching this sight so new to them. They

held up their faces to catch the large flakes as they fell ; they examined the curious forms of the fine crystals of which they are composed ; they watched them as they dissolved in their hands. They delighted in forcing their way, knee-deep, through the snow, or tripping lightly over it, as it crunched beneath their feet. They forgot the piercing cold as they looked on, while it heaped itself on the bending branches of the fir-trees, till they almost touched the earth under the load. They pelted each other with snow-balls ; and so new to them were its properties, that one day their mamma found them busy packing away a quantity in a drawer, that they might show it to papa on his return in the spring. Little had been said to them of its nature, that they might thoroughly enjoy the novelty of the scene ; and never will they forget the braeing, and joyous, and the surprising pleasure of their first winter in the snow.



They had no companions, and no Christmas revels up in their mountain-dwelling ; their papa was away, and their box of books from England quite read through and through. There are no shops at Simla to buy more : twelve hundred miles they had to send to Calcutta ; no rail-roads to bring them quickly, if they did send ; but three or four long months to wait between the going and coming of the messenger.

Nevertheless the day did not hang heavy with these active children. They spent much of it out of doors in high sport ; they learned all the little lessons that were set them ; they played at in-door games ; they had pencils, and a box of paints of their own ; they read some of their favourite books over again ; and sometimes their mamma read to them, or gave them passages, which she thought they could understand, to read themselves from her own books. And for their evening amuse-

ment, as they sat round the fire, she told them of other people, who lived among snows, and, in their fashion, made themselves happy without any of the English comforts which had been collected at Simla for their accommodation.

She took the map, and showed them where, behind their own mountains, lay the country of Thibet, from whence the fine shawl-wool comes ; she pointed out the sea of Aral, and the Caspian-sea, which lie, as it were, in an enormous basin ; a curious concave land, throughout the whole of which there are traces of volcanoes ; especially near the Caspian, which lies itself three hundred and twenty feet below the level of the Black Sea. She directed their eyes to the Oural mountains, which divide Russia in Europe from the great northern tract of Asia, called Siberia ; she guided them on to the gulf of Bothnia, and she paused at the dreary country of Lapland. It was of the

people of that country her story was to be told; and her children learned to be more thankful than ever for all their enjoyments, especially their entertaining books, when they had heard in what dull and smoky huts the little Lapland children spend the long, long winter months.

Young, however, as Marian was, her mamma had taught her to be fond of poetry, by frequently repeating to her, and sometimes giving her to learn, such passages as she could understand; and on this occasion she repeated to her a few lines from "Goldsmith's Traveller," that tend to show that all have blessings which they prize, and which make their own home and their own country dearest to them:—

"Dear is that shed to which his soul conforms,  
And dear the hill that lifts him to the storms:  
And as a child, when scaring sounds molest,  
Clings close and closer to the mother's breast,  
So the loud torrent and the whirlwind's roar  
But bind him to his native mountains more."

She began her story the very next evening.  
We must look within the arctic circle for,

“Lapland woods, and hills of frost,  
By the rapid rein-deer crost.”

## CHAPTER II.



A Lapland Family; their Dwelling and Furniture—  
Superstition declining—Winter Provisions—At-  
tack of a Wolf—Dress—Appearance and Com-  
plexion—Hospitality.

IT was in one of the extensive forests in the interior of this country that a party of Laplanders had, for a season, fixed their winter abode. The scene around them was wild and dreary: a pathless wood of gloomy pines and leafless birches, inhabited by savage wolves and bears, and frequented by the prowling fox, stretched far away to the south and west; the broken and rocky ground in their immediate vicinity was covered with deep, frozen snow; while the streams and torrents of the hills to the north were all masses of ice. The bright

flowers of their brief and glowing summer lay wrapped in a wide extended shroud, and the long and sunless winter of many months was before them, when Niels Matheson, and Marit, his wife, with Karm, their daughter, a girl twelve years of age, first settled in their lonely dwelling. With them resided Amund, their nephew, and his wife, Ellen, whom he had married not many months before; and also a stout and active young man, Heinrich by name, who, having no property of his own, was servant to these two rich Laplanders. For Niels and Amund possessed as their joint stock a fine herd of eight hundred rein-deer, and Heinrich's office was to assist them in the care of these animals. They wanted but little other service.

The small hut which sheltered them from the storms and frost of an arctic winter was a sort of tent, formed of a coarse kind of cloth, made in Norway and Sweden. This

hut was also partly covered over with turf. It was propped by three-hundred poles of birch; it was not above six feet high; its form was circular; and its whole circumference measured no more than eighteen feet.

This was the dwelling in which six persons were to spend their long winter together. The only door was a small slit on one side, covered with a sort of heavy curtain, which fell back to its place immediately after being pushed aside, to let any one out or in; and thus excluded the bitter blasts which howled around them. In the middle of this apartment was the fire, enclosed by a circle of stones; and above it a hole in the tent, by way of chimney. Notwithstanding this outlet, the dwelling was generally so full of smoke that, on entering, it was scarcely possible to distinguish any individual there. Over the fire was a rack to dry the cheeses, and a birch pole, from which hung an iron pot.

The floor was first strewed with birch-twigs and then covered with a carpet of soft and thick deer-skins. Chairs, tables, and bedsteads they had not ; but round the edges of the tent were stowed their few and simple articles of furniture, consisting of birch-bowls, wooden boxes, iron pots, and ladles. Then there were guns, and spears, and bear-poles, and nets, all which served to give a rustic grace to what might else, as the dimly-seen figures moved about, have looked like a witch's cave, with the cauldron in the midst ready for

“Toad, that under coldest stone  
Days and night had thirty-one,  
Swelter'd venom sleeping got.”

Once upon a time, indeed, Lapland was supposed to send forth its busy, malicious old women, to trouble the affairs of their fellow-mortals in distant lands ; and strange stories were told of



their freaks. But times have mended ; the Bible has been read in the humble cottages of England and Seotland, and has ineuleated more true dependence on God's protecting care. We may look securely to Him who is about our path, and about our bed, to guide and guard us under all events. Other sources of knowledge, too, have revealed that the wonders of nature are not the subjects of spell or enchantment, but are controlled by his Almighty hand.

Our Laplanders in their quiet home had no thought of harming their neighbours. Far enough had they to go to seek a single fellow-creature out of their own dwelling, and glad enough were they to sit snugly under its shelter.

Besides the chief apartment, that which I have described, and which served them for kitchen, for parlour, and, rolled up in their deer-skins, for bed-room too, they had near it

another smaller tent, constructed in the same manner. This was used as a pantry and larder. A few straight stakes were ranged along the inside, on which were placed rough boards; and these rude shelves held all the stores of winter provisions. Here lay the masses of congealed milk, and the cheeses they had made in summer; and here sometimes were quarters of the choicest venison.

One day that poor little Karin had gone from the chief apartment to this pantry for a haunch of venison, to be cooked in their great iron pot, that there might be a warm and good feast for her father and Anund when they came back from their hunting in the forest, in burst a great wolf, allured perhaps by the dainty fare she was just taking from the shelf. But Karin was a resolute little girl; she seized one of the stakes which happened to have been left unemployed upon the floor, and she beat the ravenous creature so stoutly about the

head, that he turned and fled through the small door-way; thinking her, I dare say, a very formidable monster too, in her thick fur garments. Their bold and fierce dogs were away with the herd of rein-deer, or the wolf could never have drawn so near; and poor Marit and Heinrich himself were sadly frightened, when they heard of the hazard to which Karin had been exposed. I must tell you that the wolf might well have been startled, for these Laplanders, when clothed in their winter furs, look not very much unlike their shaggy neighbours, the bears.

Niels and Amund were rich, so Marit and Ellen, and Karin could be very fine sometimes. They had the softest rein-deer skins, and generally a fringe of white fur, perhaps fox, at the edges, and a girdle studded with knobs of silver. From the girdle too were hung a few brass rings, a pincushion, and some odd trinkets, which their husbands had brought

home at different times, from the fairs they regularly attended, to buy their more necessary articles of domestic use. The general dress of both men and women in winter is almost entirely made from the skin of their deer ; though sometimes the fox, and the wolf, and the bear, and leather straps from the hide of the bull, contribute to adorn them. Instead of a coat, the Laplander wears a frock, something like a carter's, fastened round the waist with a leather belt ; and in this belt is stuck a long, pointed knife, with a handle made of birch-root, a tobacco-pouch, and when he goes out hunting he carries a rifle. He has a pair of loose pantaloons, and over these, leggings, fastened at the top by a running string, and covered with high shoes, secured tightly at the ankle by a sort of garters, to keep the snow from penetrating.

They have no shirts, for linen is unknown in Lapland ; but as a substitute, they wear an

under-jacket of sheep-skin, with the wool turned inwards. No stockings, but instead of these, the shoes are lined with dry moss. They have deer-skin gloves, or rather bags, for their hands, and these are also lined with moss. On their heads they have cloth caps, faced with fur. The dress of the women is nearly the same; and when they go out, they put on large hoods, which entirely cover their heads and shoulders, leaving only a little hole to peep out of.

The caps are ornamented with gold and silver lace, whenever their owners can afford it; and they procure the gayest colours for their ancle-garters; and sometimes even silver girdles for their waists. Like all the natives of the polar circle, the Laplanders are short, even to dwarfishness. Squatting round their central fire, they have no grace either of form or of attitude; and you may suppose that their huddling garments do not improve

their appearance. The head itself, when the hood is removed, is scarcely less curious than the figure I have described. Coarse, lank, black hair, small, dark, sunken eyes, spread noses, wide mouths, and thick lips; skins shrivelled and swarthy, even more from exposure to sharp winter winds, and hot summer suns; and above all, from the effects of the smoke and dirt of the atmosphere in which they live, than from natural complexion. Such indeed was the impression formerly produced by their appearance, that a Latin author of earlier days gravely informs us, that the inhabitants of these countries "had human faces with the bodies and limbs of wild beasts."

But uncouth though they may be in outward form, they are in reality a kind-hearted race; and a celebrated naturalist, who spent some time among them, about a hundred years ago, and who was, as one of the old women told him, the first stranger she had ever seen, bears

ample testimony to their friendly and compassionate feelings. This old woman's husband, on whom she depended entirely for subsistence, was ill ; and yet, with true hospitality, she welcomed the traveller to her scanty store. " I would not have thee die in my country for want of food," she said, as she bestowed on him the refreshment of which he stood so much in need.

## CHAPTER III.

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Habits of the Natives—*Lichen Rangiferinus*—Reindeer.

I HAVE told you that Niels and Amund possessed, between them, a fine herd of rein-deer. Some of these were trained to draw their sledges, many kept to be killed for food, and the females gave excellent milk; only, however, during the summer; but as the winter approached, a certain quantity of this milk had been left to freeze in hard lumps, looking very like pieces of alabaster; and in this state it was preserved to be melted as it was wanted during the winter.

Our Laplanders had neither fields nor gardens, nor did they wish for them; corn, and



cultivated vegetables are not known so far north. The poorest of all the Laplanders are those who betake themselves to the cultivation of the land ; for they never turn farmers until they are entirely destitute ; and then they settle in a log-hut, by the side of some river, and for the first time endeavour to gain a subsistence by clearing the soil, and cultivating little patches of land.

Niels and his family, however, were so accustomed to the wild and wandering and negligent life they led, "content," though not quite "careless of to-morrow's fare," that they probably would have felt themselves sadly constrained, could they have been placed in an English cottage, with all the little comforts, and, above all, the comparative cleanliness, which makes the poorest Englishman's home so dear to him.

The whole country lay before these fur-clad *nomades*,—this is the term by which all wan-

during winter, are designated, and they might range free and uncontrolled like the wild animals & liberty in the forests. They might climb the mountains, and place their dwellings where ever they pleased: but in winter they penetrate the thick woods, where they could hunt the bears, oxen, and caribous, or such other animals, whose skins they could exchange with the Norwegian, and Swedish, and sometimes with the Russian merchant for gunpowder, tobacco, pieces of plate, or any other articles which caught their fancy. The trees furnished them with plenty of fuel, and in the woods they found the greatest quantity of the moss which is the sole food of the rein-deer during the winter.

This moss is so nourishing, that the animal grows excessively fat upon it.

The moss is said to be much consumed

may be said most truly in this case: and how

ever deep the snow may be, if it cover the *lichen rangiferinus*, which is the botanical name given to this moss, the sagacious creature is aware of its presence the moment he comes to the spot ; and this kind of food is never so agreeable to him as when he digs it for himself. In his manner of doing this he is remarkably adroit. Having first ascertained, by thrusting his muzzle into the snow, whether the moss lies immediately below or not, he begins making a hole with his fore-feet, and shovelling with his pal-mated horns, and thus continues working, until at length he uncovers the lichen. It is said, that no instance has ever occurred of a rein-deer making such a cavity without discovering the moss he seeks.

The hut I have described seems, I dare say, to you a miserable place of abode ; but it is better suited to the wandering habits of the Laplander, than a well-built, well furnished house, which it would not be possible to pack

upon a rein-deer's back, and remove from place to place.

I know you will like a more particular description of the animal which forms the riches of a Laplander. In its wild state, the male rein-deer is often larger than the common stag, but the female is less than the hind. This is, I believe, the only animal of the deer kind which has been tamed for domestic use, and the only one, too, of which the female is provided with horns as well as the male. The tame races of Lapland rein-deer, are about the size of the fallow-deer, which you will see in our English parks whenever you go to our English home. The rein-deer swim with great facility, and they are so buoyant, that half their backs are always above water ; so powerful, that a boat well manned can scarcely keep pace with them. When defending themselves, they strike downwards with their horns, but they do not attempt to gore. They kick fu-

riously with their hind feet, and seldom fail to repel the fierce but cowardly wolf, when attacked by one at a time. The feet of the rein-deer make the same cracking noise as those of the elk ; which is, you know, a very large animal of the deer kind, also an inhabitant of the northern regions ; and having, consequently, palmated horns, like the rein-deer, and the same kind of spreading feet, which enable them to tread lightly and firmly over the snow. The rein-deer has also a sort of blind to defend its eye in storms of sleet and snow. This is a thin, filmy, and very moveable cover, called the nietitating or winking membrane, which the animal can let down close over the eye, or draw up again under the eye-lid, at pleasure.

You perceive how well the creature is fitted for the station in which it is placed, and for the offices required of it. Moreover, it is endowed with a wonderfully acute scent, by

which it not only perceives, with unerring certainty, its mossy food deep under the snow, but which also aids in guiding it with wonderful precision through the most dangerous passes, and in the darkest stormy nights of an arctic winter. It appears, indeed, to be an animal peculiarly adapted to the regions it inhabits ; and it has never been found possible to keep it long alive, even in the northern parts of the temperate zone.

You will find it mentioned in many books of natural history, on the authority of a French nobleman, Gaston de Foix, who lived in the fourteenth century, and who was a mighty hunter in his day, that rein-deer were then to be met with in the Pyrenees. At least, this was concluded to be his meaning, because Gaston's territory of Foix, where all his wild sports were supposed to have taken place, lay at the foot of these mountains. But Cuvier, the learned and industrious naturalist, who

has supplied so many interesting facts respecting the animal creation, was so convinced that there must be some mistake on this subject, that he pursued his enquiries, till he at length succeeded in obtaining a sight of the manuscript, in which Gaston had mentioned this animal; and there he found that Gaston certainly had hunted the rein-deer, but that it was only on an occasion when he had gone on an embassy to one of the northern courts of Europe. There is reason to believe, that the rein-deer of Lapland, and the izzard, or chamoise, of the Pyrenees, have never been found in the same latitudes.

The rein-deer have not the graceful movements we admire in the fallow-deer; nor do they toss their heads proudly like the stately stag. Owing to their short, thick necks, they stoop, and carry their heads more like the slow ox; but this strong and heavy-looking form particularly fits them for drawing

the sledges of their masters. And the splay hoofs, which they have, moreover, the power of extending, or contracting at pleasure, besides being very useful to serape away the snow, whenever their keen noses tell them food lies beneath it, have another great advantage; they give the animals a firm and secure footing on the difficult ground they have to traverse. If they had pointed feet, like the fallow-deer, with their ponderous bodies, they would sink at every step when the ground was soft, instead of trotting away over snow and slippery ice in winter, and overyielding marshy lands in summer, with a speed far beyond the swift movements of a horse, even on our level turnpike-roads. The cracking noise of their hoofs is heard every time they set down the foot. This sound may be distinguished at a considerable distance; and even this seems adapted to the destinies of the animal. It enables the men and dogs to as-



certain in what quarter to seek, when one or more of them may happen to have strayed from the herd.

Though not so light in form, or so agile in movement, as many of the other kinds of deer, the rein is still, in many respects, pleasing to the eye. His warm and close-set fur, changing every month in colour, as Linnæus tells us from actual observation, and in winter becoming almost white at the extremities of the longer hairs; his large, full, black, intelligent eye; his magnificent spreading antlers, which are covered during a great part of the year with a velvet down; his air of strength, and his free and firm action; his bold racing against the roughest winds of heaven; nay, even his fierceness in battle, give spirit and variety to the appearance and habits of the rein-deer. Not only does he resolutely defend himself against the wolf; but, though not habitually of a quarrelsome temper, he will sometimes

fight with his own kind with such determined fury, that often, in the eagerness of the contest, their branching horns become so entangled, that neither their strength nor their dexterity can avail to separate them. So the combatants have lain panting in utter exhaustion, on the spot where they fell ; and long after, when the flesh of each has been devoured by wild beasts, and their bones picked clean by the voracious hill-ants, the skeleton skulls have been found whitened in the blast, and still held firmly together by the intertwining antlers.

The male rein-deer sheds his horns early in the winter ; so that by the time the snows have accumulated, his new ones are strong enough to aid his foot in the work of shovelling and scraping the mass aside ; while, by the wise appointment of Providence, the females preserve theirs till May, when they bring forth their two fawns ; and when the fresh-springing herbs, and the tender green of the fir and

birch trees, afford them nourishment which they do not need their horns to procure.

No animal has so impenetrable a coat as the rein-deer ; and for this reason, the Laplanders prefer their skins before those of any of the other beasts of the forest ; for the fur is so extremely thick and close that it is impossible for heat to escape through it.

It is said, that if the hides are kept in a close, warm place, the fur falls off ; as if the very skin retained that dislike of heat which so remarkably characterizes the animal when alive.

## CHAPTER IV.

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Native Dogs—Conflict with Wolves—A Carouse—  
Winter Occupations—Treasures—Hunting the  
Bear—The Grey Squirrel—The Ptarmigan—  
Winter Feast—Manner of Eating.

BESIDES their herd of deer, our Laplanders possessed a troop of rough dogs, very like wolves in appearance, excepting their tails, which are bushy, and curled. These were the trusty guardians of the herd, and as necessary to their masters as the sheep-dog is to the shepherd.

The deer were allowed by day to range free in the forest in search of pasture ; and sometimes they would wander to a distance of several miles from home : but the careful dogs never failed to collect them, and drive

them towards the huts at night ; where they were accustomed, not to the snug shelter of a stable, but to lie down on the snowy ground in a circle outside the tent.

If no alarm of wolves obliged the family to be on the alert in defence of their valuable deer, they all six slept huddled together on their deer-skin carpet ; and every spot that remained unoccupied by them was taken possession of by the dogs. Of these, however, by far the greater number, not being able to find any other sleeping-place, stretched themselves comfortably, and unmolested in their repose, on the shaggy bodies of their masters.

The wolves did not annoy them much for some time after their arrival in their present quarters : with the exception of the attack upon Karin, or rather upon the venison in her larder, (for the startled beast probably little expected to find a living being there,) no wolf had ventured to prowl around their encampment.

The Laplanders stuck up fluttering rags on high poles, as scarecrows: the deer too, by their acute scent, perceiving their mortal enemies at a great distance, gave notice by their restlessness at night, whenever wolves were approaching their neighbourhood. On such occasions, while the others slept, part of the family kept guard with some of their dogs, often going out from the tent, striking with a clattering noise against their sledges, and making every startling sound they could devise, to scare the enemy away.

Wolves are extremely fond of venison, and you may suppose how eagerly they longed to feast on this fine herd. But they cunningly waited for boisterous weather, aware that they could then steal upon their prey with less hazard of being perceived, and, perhaps, snatch at some "small deer," that lay at the edge of the circle, by surprise.

One night, one very stormy night, early in

November, when the rein-deer's horns were still tender, and the snow was falling fast, and the wind beating with such violence that even the turf-secured mound seemed in danger of being overthrown, and buried under a snow-drift, the family were roused by the loud howling of wolves, and the restless trampling of the deer close by their habitation. The watchful dogs were roused from their slumbers, and answering to those without, gave signal that danger was near by their short impatient bark. Immediately up started the men, and women too ; and even young Karin, like the rest, threw her close, muffling hood over her head ; and, heedless of the pelting storm, they all followed the eager dogs, who had already rushed out in defence of the precious deer. Heinrich soon despatched one of the foremost of the enemy with his rifle ; Niels felled another to the earth with a club ; and the women screamed and the dogs barked in

concert, to such good purpose that the band of wolves, finding the herd so well defended, very unwillingly retreated.

However, I am sorry to say they were not entirely disappointed of their supper, for they fell in with two of the herd ; foolish creatures ! that on the first alarm of wolf, instead of remaining by the tent, secure under the protection of their masters, and their good friends the dogs, had started off into the forest, and thus met the death they had vainly hoped to escape. The rest, when the danger was past, crouched again in peace around the tent ; and the family betook themselves to their deer-skin bed : Niels and Heinrich not a little delighted with their victory over the wolves, whose skins they considered a great prize.

The two deer which the wolves had seized were not missed, for, as the Laplanders have a foolish idea that it is unlucky to count the numbers of the herd, so small a diminution



was not perceived ; and, rejoicing in what they supposed a complete triumph, they all indulged the next day in a carouse of brandy ; the men singing, or rather howling, a kind of ditty, which was a mere repetition of Lapland words, signifying

“ Let us drive the wolves !

Let us drive the wolves !

See they run ! the wolves run ! ”

The sort of half bray and half howl in which this song is performed made a traveller who once heard it say, that if the wolf was within hearing, it was no wonder he was frightened away.

During the twilight of their short winter day, our Laplanders found plenty of employment. The men made horn spoons, sledges, skates, (or skidders as they are called,) ladles, troughs, and porringers of wood. The women made boots and shoes of deer-skin. They

laid the sinews, or tendons, of the legs of the rein-deer before the fire, and then, having beaten them well with wooden mallets, they divided them into filaments, sometimes as fine as hair; and these answered all the purposes of thread.

For bow-strings, or cords, they twisted several of these filaments together with great skill, according to the size wanted. They made nets, also, for fishing, or for snares; but I have not been able to make out whether their twine was animal or vegetable. Part of their time, too, was taken up in boiling the horns and shreds of skin for glue. And we may believe that their good dinners occupied no small portion of their brief day.

They fed on the fattest rein-deer venison, which they stewed and ate with the broth in which it had been cooked. And part of their time they sat in stupid dulness, smoking tobacco.

It must be said to their praise, that constantly as they were together, there was no quarrelling amongst them. Sometimes they were noisy with their *yoicka*, or wolf-song, and rude and rough in their romping and jostling with each other; but when they were tired of their awkward gambols, they did not become fractious, but composed themselves quietly to sleep. Although their song was a barbarous discord, their voices in speaking were gentle and low-toned; and, altogether, they and their rein-deer seemed to be very much of the same meek and ruminating nature.

Niels, by far the eldest man of the three, possessed a curious kind of riches, for which he had no manner of use; for he kept them buried so secretly that only his wife, Marit, knew where they were concealed. These were three or four silver cups, a few smaller vessels, partly ornamented with gold; several orna-

ments of brass, and a collection of silver coin of various size and value.

All the Lapps, as they are sometimes called, have a passion for accumulating this kind of treasure. They do not carry it from place to place, but bury it, as I have told you, in some place where they can occasionally dig it up, look at it, and bury it again. If they find it very much tarnished they think it no longer of value, and exchange it, of course at a great loss, for a new collection, bright and clean, at the next fair they attend. Perhaps Niels meant to bestow all his showy wealth on his daughter Karin ; but it often happens that much treasure of this kind is lost entirely, when the husband dies at a great distance from its place of concealment, and the wife has no opportunity of returning to take possession of it, or to point out the spot where it lies.

I am unable to tell you in what this practice

originated ; probably it is connected with some superstitions belonging to their days of paganism. For although the Laplanders have been for some time past converts to Christianity, yet they retain many customs which may be traced to the darker period of their history.

The boldness and activity of our Laplanders, when once fairly abroad in the free air, was all unlike their general listlessness within their smoky hut. Sometimes, with "sturdy strokes," they felled the pine-trees, and dragged the logs home for fuel, splintering away torches from the most resinous part of the wood. Sometimes they used their axes to cut through the thick ice on the streams, and get at the fresh water beneath it ; for melted snow has often a very bitter taste. Then came their grand hunting expeditions.

When the snow was tolerably hard, they braced on their snow-skates. These are not like the skates you have heard of, and on

which I have promised you shall skim over our own pools, when you get to merry England. The skates are made of wood, very narrow, and sometimes seven feet long. Some travelers relate that they cover these skiders with the skins of young rein-deer, and that the hairs act like bristles against the snow; the roots pointing towards the forepart of the skate, and thus preventing their slipping back.

In pursuit of the bear, by means of these instruments, the sole object of the huntsman is to get before the animal; and then, with a short pole which he carries, to strike him a hard blow on the nose, when he is easily secured.

So violent is the exercise in skating, and such the rapidity of the motion, that, we are told, the Laplander, when earnestly engaged in the chase, even during the most rigorous season of the year, will divest himself of his furs, and appear almost without clothing.

On these skiders Amund, who was a very expert skater, would glide across lakes and rivers, shoot down the mountains and precipices, swift as an arrow from a bow, and skim over ground that would have seemed almost impassable to one not used to it, with so much ease, that his motion seemed more like that of a swallow in its sweeping course through the air, than of an animal on two legs. He could not have hunted, as he did, to a great distance from their station without his skates; for no strength could have supported, and no activity have overcome the toil and difficulties of struggling over the snowy hills in heavy deer-skin boots.

Amund was also an excellent shot, and particularly fond of pursuing the bears with his rifle. This was rather a dangerous sport, for though he always took care to be pretty near the beast before he fired, it would sometimes happen to him, good shot as he was, to miss

his aim, or only slightly to wound the animal. The bear, then enraged, would turn in the direction of the smoke, and give Amund no time to reload. The only chance of escape would be to puzzle him by dodging behind the trees ; reproaching the shaggy brute all the while for its cowardice in attacking an unarmed man : for Amund, like all his countrymen, had a high opinion of the sagacity of these creatures, and was simple enough to fancy they could understand when he spoke to them.

If he succeeded in shooting one, then he was proud indeed ; for, in a Laplander's opinion, killing a bear is the greatest feat it is possible to perform. And there was nothing Amund enjoyed more than to sit over the blazing pine-logs, and fight his battles over and over again ; astonishing his companions with his wonderful stories of all the difficulties he had encountered.

Once, with all his valour, and all his dex-



terity, he certainly would have lost his life, but that Heinrich, who was following a stray deer, heard his shouts, and ran to his help. Amund had fired at the bear, and missed his aim. He then plunged his short pike, unfortunately, into the thigh of the animal, instead of into the right place for killing him. He perceived at once that he was in great danger ; so he leaped upon the bear's back, to be out of the reach of his tusks. But the creature contrived to fasten these upon the poor man's arm, and would, no doubt, have succeeded in dragging him off, and devouring him too, but at that moment Heinrich arrived, and seeing Bruin on his hind legs, with Amund clinging to his back, plunged the long spear he had with him so cleverly into the bear's heart, that the beast let go his hold, and Amund scrambled off with alacrity ; the flesh of his arm, however, was torn in a terrible manner.

The wounds healed with a little of Ellen's good doctoring; but Amund always made the most of his share of the adventure, and never failed to show his scars, when he told the history of his perilous exploit.

The dead body of the bear was carried home in triumph by the hardy servant; but though Amund joined "tooth and nail" in demolishing the smoked hams, and other choice morsels of his formidable enemy, I must let you know that he had the right feeling to lay no claim to the skin. He gave this up entirely to Heinrich; and carefully was it laid up in store for barter at some future day.

Niels, who was a much older man than either Amund or Heinrich, was not so active, or so enterprising as they: but he was skilled in the use of the cross-bow; and seldom failed, with his short, thick arrows, to knock down the grey squirrels, and the ptarmigans; and, dwarf as he was in appearance, he was

able to draw a bow that a tall, stout Norwegian could scarcely bend.

The grey squirrel is the little animal respecting which the curious story is told, that some hundreds of them will often collect together, when they have to cross a lake or river, and that each, laying hold of a separate piece of pine, or birch-bark, and drawing it to the edge of the water, will mount upon this fragile raft, and erecting its bushy tail to catch the wind, will thus abandon itself to the waves. This singular little flotilla is said often to reach its destined port in safety. But if the breeze should be too strong, and the current too violent, the navigator and the vessel are both overturned; and the dead bodies washed on shore afford a rich prize of soft fur to the wandering Laplander. I cannot say that any of these ever fell to the lot of our Lapps; for I do not find such an event recorded in the

annals of their lives ; nor am I able to assure you that the whole story does not belong to the chapter of " Sindbad the Sailor."

The ptarmigans, too, come in for their share in the wonderful. Their voice is singular, and alarming to those who are frightened at every sound for which they cannot account. A poor Swedish post-boy was once so frightened by the cry of one of these birds, hearing it probably for the first time, that nothing could prevail on him to drive through the wood to which it had strayed, from the more northern forests.

Niels, however, who knew the sound well, was rejoiced when, in the silence of the night, its usual time of uttering its wild cry, he heard the ptarmigan, as it crept out from the crevice in the rocks where, with its companions, it had formed a snug lodge under the snow. He hastened to their haunts as soon as he was

up in the morning ; and he usually brought home a quantity sufficient to make a pleasant variety in their family meal.

The ptarmigan feeds in summer on the young shoots of pine and heath, and in winter on such berries as it can find in the woods and on the mountains. They are found in great numbers in Lapland ; and they are such silly birds, that they will sit stretching out their necks and watching the fowler as he takes aim at them ; and even when they do fly off at his approach, or on his bringing one of them to the ground, they will settle again at so short a distance that it was, after all, easy work for Niels to fill his game-bag with them.

Heinrich, meanwhile, with the dogs, watched over the herd ; and the women sometimes assisted him, sometimes employed themselves in working for the family. The deer furnished them with materials for all their manufactures. It was the business of Heinrich to kill the

deer : he was, indeed, chief cook ; the women performing the part of scullery-maids.

When a deer was to be killed, Heinrich tied the poor beast to a tree, and striking a knife up to the hilt into his body, between the fore-legs, he left it sticking there. Then loosing the quiet creature, it seemed so little sensible of injury, that it would often feed for a moment or two, and then drop down dead. The knife is not drawn from the wound, lest the blood should gush out and be lost. For this being esteemed a great delicacy, is preserved with great care, and kept in a congealed state in a bladder, to mix with many of their savoury dishes.

You would not, I believe, very much relish a Lapland winter feast ; and an old traveller tells us, that their dishes are “very tormenting to stomachs not used to them.” If you were to see their manner of eating, I believe you would be still less inclined to sit down, I can-

not say to *table* with them, for table they have none.

I dare say you have heard that “fingers were made before knives and forks;” and knives and forks are amongst those articles of comfort and cleanliness which these untutored people had no idea of using. Our jovial party in the hut squatted round the dish upon the floor, and thrusting in their dirty hands, tore away the meat with their fingers. And I have no doubt that the dogs were not backward to dip their muzzles and paws in. The best dish they had was their venison soup. If they got a little meal at any time from the merchants they dealt with, they mixed it with their broth: but these wealthy Laplanders never made any kind of bread. Some of their poorer countrymen, who had no herds of reindeer to supply them with food and clothing, did formerly make a kind of bread from the rind of fir-trees. They first scraped off the

rough crusty outside, and then taking the soft and white part, they dried it, and afterwards grinding it in hand or water-mills, they made a paste or dough, which they baked, but which it would require a Lapland stomach to relish or to digest. Sometimes they mixed with this paste a powder or flour, obtained from the *calla palustris*, a plant growing plentifully on the river-sides, and in shallow waters. But though even the stationary Laplanders are, in every sense of the word, poor farmers themselves, the improved agriculture of their neighbours has supplied them with food, which has made them, for the most part, despise what was probably the primitive bread of many of the northern nations.



## CHAPTER V.



Mode of Harnessing the Rein-deer—Their extraordinary Swift-ness—Place of Worship—Clergyman: His Luxuries—Fondness for Ardent Spirits—A Removal—Winter Nights—Indolent Habits—Superstition—Sale of Winds—Aurora Borealis—Treatment of Infants—Whistling Swan.

ALTHOUGH the Laplanders find their skidders most convenient for hunting, their journeys in winter are always performed in sledges. These are in form not unlike an Indian canoe: they are lined with soft deer-skins, and covered at the bottom, like the skates, with fur, which is intended to render them less liable to slip when going up a hill.

The rein-deer's collar is made of a piece of skin with the hair upon it; and the traces of leather are also prepared from the hides of deer. Both collar and traces are often gaily

ornamented with different coloured strips of cloth or silk. The driver does not use a double rein, but merely a cord tied to the base of the animal's horn. This he flings upon one side or the other of its back, according as he wishes to turn it to the right or the left. This sort of rein must give very little command over the animal ; but it is probably much safer not to attempt to guide them too strictly, but rather to trust their instinct for choosing the best ground.

Peaceful as I have described the rein-deer in his general habits, and early as he is trained to draw the sledge, it is not always that he is tractable in harness. He will sometimes run restive, and not only refuse to obey, but even kick so furiously with his broad hoofs, that the driver is obliged for safety to turn over his light sledge, and cover himself with it till the rage of the animal is spent.

The speed and strength of these creatures

are very great. They can travel sixty miles at a stretch, and without being in the least pressed or put into a gallop. They trot at the rate of ten miles an hour. The most extraordinary story told of the speed of this animal, relates to an event which occurred in 1699, when the Norwegians having made an attack upon Sweden, an officer was sent in a sledge to Stockholm with the intelligence. He performed the journey of eight hundred miles in forty-eight hours; but the poor animal which conveyed him was so exhausted, that it dropped lifeless on the earth immediately on its arrival in the capital.

Every Sunday some of our party always yoked their deer to their sledges, and scoured across the forest to attend divine service; for the Laplanders seldom, during winter, fix their abode further than twenty or thirty miles from their church. This distance is nothing to a Laplander and his rein-deer. Their place of

worship is usually a very rude building, constructed of logs of wood laid transversely together, and often in very bad repair.

Niels and his family were at this time in that part of Lapland which belongs to Norway; and their clergyman was Norwegian. His dwelling was not very much more comfortable than the tent of our Lapps: it was built, like the church, of logs of wood, and consisted of two rooms, and a small closet with a bed in it. The furniture, merely a stove, a few wooden tables and benches, and a very scanty supply of other necessary articles. He had a couple of tame pigs; but these were kept more as curiosities than as a part of his stock of provisions. No poultry is to be found throughout the whole country; indeed, of these they can never feel the want while they have such an astonishing quantity of game. The black cock, the ptarmigan, wild ducks, teal, *berassines*, and fish of various kinds, were

always to be had. Potatoes could not be preserved through the winter ; and it was with great difficulty that even a few were saved for planting. In the summer, the clergyman, in whose garden they were cultivated as a luxury, not only ate the root, but boiled the tops of the plant, which, for want, I should suppose, of better, he considered a very delicate vegetable. These potatoe-tops, and also nettles, helped to make out a soup, with the addition of reindeer's tongues.

He had, besides, rye-biscuit for bread ; but this was obtained from Sweden. A little barley is generally the only species of grain sown. Sometimes the crop does not ripen at all ; at others, according to the favourableness of the season, it is housed in seven or eight weeks from the time the seed is committed to the ground.

As a Lapland parish often extends some hundred miles, you may imagine the clergy-

man's life is subject to much fatigue and hardship. In the depth of winter he is usually settled near his church ; and here his parishioners assemble from their distant homes every Sunday ; some arriving the day before, if they have a very long way to travel, and taking up their quarters for the night in the church, or in one of the few log-houses close by.

Here, too, their marriages take place. On one occasion, a son of one of Niel's old friends took unto himself a wife ; and Karin was delighted to see the grand presents that were bestowed as bridal offerings. There were rings, and silver spoons, and a cup silver-gilt ; a silver girdle for the lady's waist ; one silk, and two cotton kerchiefs for her neck. All her friends gave some slight token of good-will. The bridegroom himself made ready a great feast of rein-deer flesh, brandy, and a brewing of malt for the occasion ; with plenty of tobacco for smoking.

After the wedding-dinner, a collection in money was made for the new-married pair, from all the guests. The father bestowed on his son, to begin the world with, some of his precious silver cups and dollars, and a fine herd of eighty rein-deer. The guests, also, many of them, promised to contribute a few more to his stock, on condition that he would come to demand them, and bring with him a present of brandy in exchange.

Round the clergyman's hut there were several others of the same kind, inhabited by the merchants who came to deal with the Laplanders for the furs they got in hunting.

Amongst these was unfortunately a dealer in brandy, whose hut was as great a temptation to the Laplanders, as an alehouse to the good people of old England. Many of them are so sadly addicted to drinking, that they will part with every thing they have, even their deer for brandy. However, I am glad to

tell you, that neither Niels nor Amund were so very thoughtless as that. They, too often spent in drink what they had gained by the chase ; but they never were tempted to part with the valuable animals of their herd.

When the Lapps leave the forests in summer, and take up their abode on the mountains or on the sea-coast, the good minister frequently leaves his residence, and follows them there.

Our sober friends had now been nearly two months settled in the same spot : it was time to move ; for the deer had pretty well consumed all the moss within reach. So the family took down their tents, and packing them, with their slender household stock, upon the docile animals, removed to some distance further in the forest ; and once more set up their poles, and stretched their canvass, and secured the huts again with the layer of turf outside.



And now the actual winter nights began. From the middle of December to the middle of March, the cold was intense. For eight weeks in the depth of winter, all their light from the sun, and that only by what is called refraction, was for one short hour each day. The sun itself they never saw during the whole period. Their land, as you have been shown in different engravings, representing the motion of the earth, is too much inclined from the perpendicular, to be at any time, during the winter season, within sight of the sun's disk ; though some of his rays are refracted, or bent towards this distant country, in passing through the atmosphere, which I have more than once explained to you, surrounds the whole earth ; extending everywhere upwards into the heavens, to a distance of between forty and fifty miles from its surface. And it is by means of this refraction alone that they obtain the glimmering of light

I have mentioned. This "darkness visible" is, however, to them "the long night of revelry and ease." I can easily imagine, that so many weeks of confinement and idleness would seem very tedious to you. The very habit of feeling that we ought every day to be employed to some useful purpose, connects in our minds a sense of doing wrong with total idleness. But the Laplanders are an indolent, sluggish race of people. They have no feeling of delight in the act of exertion: they hunt and labour from necessity; and I believe nothing would astonish them so much as to hear of the pleasure English fox-hunters take in risking life and limb, riding all day long after a little beast, whose flesh and skin are of no manner of use to them.

Even Amund himself, a choice spirit for a Laplander, did not chase the bears merely for the sake of sport. They might have prowled about the forest quite unmolested for him, if he

had not wished for their dainty flesh to eat, and their shaggy skins to sell. However, both he and his companions could make themselves quite happy, after their fashion, smoking and talking round the fire ; especially when a potation of brandy was added to the cheer.

They had their great exploits by flood and field to recount ; and they had many a legend of superstition to repeat, which they told over and over again, till they more than half believed it was all true. They had wild tales of the giants and heroes of other days ; and the story of the Troller, the evil spirit of the woods, a sort of fairy, delighting in all manner of mischief.

They had, indeed, so talked themselves into the fear of this imaginary being, that once on a time, three years before the period in which I have begun their adventures, it happened that Karin was missing ; and they could not tell how soon a bear or a wolf might rush out

and seize the poor defenceless child for a prey, if she had rambled far into the forest : yet Heinrich, who was the most superstitious of the party, dared not venture forth to seek for her, because neither Niels nor Amund was at home to join in the search ; for poor cowardly Heinrich fancied that the Troller had carried her off, and that if it could only catch him alone, on such an errand as endeavouring to rescue little Karin, he should only be the next victim himself. So he, who had bravely faced the real evil of the woods, the bear which had nearly devoured Amund, slunk cowering into the tent for fear of the creature of his own imagination.

It was Marit, the child's mother, who shamed him, by setting off herself to find her poor little wandering girl. I am very glad to say, that Heinrich's good nature got the better of his cowardice. He followed Marit ; and well it was that they went. Karin was

not far off, but she had stumbled against one of the large ant-hills which abound in this country; and the ants had so severely revenged themselves, that they found her crying bitterly, and in such great pain, that she was scarcely able to walk. It was not till her mother had taken off her clothes, and shaken and beaten them well, and brushed away the fierce, tiny real *Trollers* from her skin, that the poor little girl could be free from their attacks; and she clung very thankfully to Heinrich as he carried her back to the tent.

Another of their long stories over the fire was about the wonderful divining drum, which had a needle, something like the hand of a clock, placed on its uppermost skin; and this, by pointing to certain figures in the circle round the edge, would tell fortunes, or reveal secrets, or detect criminals, in a manner terrible and astonishing to these simple people, who never perceived that their conjurors all

the while managed the whole business by means of a piece of magnetised iron, which could guide the needle as the wizard chose. The people's own alarm, or their simplicity, soon betraying to the "cunning man" which way to shape its course. But, indeed, the magnet itself would have been to them as much an object of superstitious awe, could they have ascertained its share in the business.

Besides all these, there were many relies too of heathen idolatry, which they imagined to be extraordinary charms in many of the diseases to which they are subject: and they held in strange and fearful veneration, the places where ancient sacrifices had been offered. These places are still marked by heaps of decayed rein-deer's horns; and still, when they pass that way, the poor natives shrink with horror from the place.

Laplanders are not the only people in the world who delight in frightening themselves

with phantoms of their own conjuring up. Wiser heads, and better instructed minds than theirs, even in the shape of little foolish English children, can sit and gossip themselves into a shuddering dread of looking behind them,

“ Each trembling heart with grateful terrors quell’d.”

But this really is foolish ; because the habit of being easily startled, acquired in childhood by idle tricks played on each other, or from listening to a silly nursemaid’s stories, is often difficult to be entirely shaken off, even when people are grown old enough to be ashamed of its folly :

“ Just as the twig is bent, the tree’s inclined.”

So remember, if you please, to begin at the beginning, and never try to frighten your companions, or let others frighten you ; unless you would wish to grow up like Heinrich, and make your lives uncomfortable by *Trollers* of your own invention.





but you may be sure they kept the true secret of their witchcraft a profound mystery.

So you see, one way and another, there was enough of the wonderful and wild in the country of our Esquimaux for many a long winter's tale.

Moreover, you are not to fancy the nights of these eight weeks were nights of total darkness. I have told you the sun-light lasted only one hour; but the stars shone in that region with peculiar brilliancy. And, during the reign of the queen of night, the moon, — there being no day to dim her light, — shined through out the short day and the long night, with undimmed brightness.

There is also a splendid appearance in the heavens, very rarely and very faintly seen further southward, the aurora borealis, or northern lights. Sometimes this brilliant spectacle appears in the zenith, or highest point over head, like a large and various coloured

sparkling canopy, which rolls and floats into folds, pouring down streams of light from all its edges. At other times, beams dart rapidly from the horizon towards the zenith, and then fall back in a zig-zag form, as if their force had been spent in springing upward. At one moment, a wide space to the north is illuminated by a rapid succession of flashes, soft and silvery as the lightest clouds which surround the moon : then follows a broad blaze of brighter light, bursting upwards, as if from a mass of minute luminous particles. Here and there, flames of white or red gleam across the sky ; now tinged with the colour of the reddest rose, now displaying every hue of the rainbow, mingling and blending together ; till after a time dying away into pale splendour, the whole resembles a transparent curtain of mother-of-pearl, which gradually losing all form and substance, vanishes from the eye, as if combining itself with the pure azure of

heaven. Suddenly, again a fresh burst of ethereal light issues upwards, like myriads of rockets chasing each other in quick succession, and exhibiting tints, varying from bright carnation to the fine green of the emerald, or the rich purple of the amethyst. Fiery serpents sometimes seem to dart across the dark face of the clouds, or broad sheets of silver to glide in vivid lustre before them; and the light is so strong, that the minutest object on the earth may be clearly discerned. Thus,

“Even in the midst of polar night, they find a wondrous day.”

Some travellers tell us, too, that on very still nights, sounds are heard accompanying this splendid scene, resembling the crackling and waving of flames far away in the distant heavens: but the party who accompanied Captain Franklin in his journey to the Polar Seas, and who observed these wonderful appearances for



cloth, and rein-deer's skin. The child was packed up in this case, whenever they were not dandling it in their arms. The strings protected its face from the pressure of the coverlet ; and all the inside was lined with soft moss, and hay, and rein-deer's hair ; and over that, a fawn-skin for the little thing to lie upon. For a coverlet, it had sometimes a piece of woollen cloth, and sometimes a warm skin. In this snug case little Eric (for that was the name given to the baby boy) was often suspended from the poles of the tent ; or, as summer advanced, from the top of a high tree, to be rocked by the wind.

One might imagine that the little nursery ballad, "Hushaby baby on the tree-top," was composed for a Lapland infant ; only that instead of a "sturdy lion's," we must have a cosy rein-deer's skin, to "wrap our baby bantling in." But Ellen, when she went out, seldom liked to lose sight of her darling. She

fastened the light cradle upon her back, by a broad band which crossed her forehead : and thus, her hands being left free, she was able to fetch wood or water, or to drive the deer, without inconvenience from her dear little burden, which swung dozing and secure behind her.

The party had removed to another spot before April. And now, about the middle of this month, the rooks made their appearance, and the wild geese flocked to the lakes, and the whooper, or whistling swan, had repaired to its northern haunts. This is the bird whose vocal sounds have been compared to the notes of the violin ; and those who have heard them, high in the air, say, that the tones of its lengthened cry are far from disagreeable. The remarkable distinction of voice between it and the tame or mute swan, which can only hiss, arises from the peculiar form of the wind-pipe, which falls into the chest, passing through a part of the breast-bone, and bending again

to join the lungs, with a curve something like that of the letter S. There is a period of the year when this bird is an object of chase to the inhabitants of Iceland ; which island it also frequents. In the month of August, these whistling swans lose their feathers to such a degree as not to be able to fly. At that season, the natives of Iceland resort in great numbers to the places where they most abound, mounted on active and strong horses, trained to the sport, and capable of passing nimbly over the boggy soil. The swans can run as fast as a tolerably fleet horse ; but the greater number are caught by the dogs, swan-hounds I suppose we must call them, which are taught to seize the birds by the neck ; a mode of attack that causes them to lose their balance, and thus become an easy prey.

You will read in the poets frequent comparisons to the sweet melody of the swan, which was feigned to utter its plaintive notes

only when about to expire ; and you will perceive from what I have now related, that if the story had any foundation in nature, it must have referred to the whooper. Still there is a grace and a beauty about the swan to which we are most accustomed, that will always make it a favourite with the lovers of poetical imagery. And who loves it not ? the feeling is often there when there is no ability to “string the pearls of poesy,” or to “build the lofty rhyme.”



## CHAPTER VI.

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Spring—Summer—Linnæus—Mosquitoes—Fortunate Calamity—Summer Rambles—The Eagle—Rein-deer Fawns—Tar-works.

WE have wandered from our pigmy friends, and left them while “winter lingering” still “chilled the lap of May.” But in May, the partridge and the wheatear were come, and the rivulets had begun to flow. The ice broke up in the second week of the month, and in three days had totally disappeared. The swallow came “twittering on the turf-built shed,” and skimming over the pools. The cuckoo, true harbinger of spring, arrived. The piping noise of the snipe was heard in the marshes of the forest; and the busy dogs,

dashing through the waters of the lakes, would scour amongst the sedge-grass for wild fowl, and bring them, one after another, in their mouths to land.

The stock of rein-deer had been considerably diminished by the winter-feasts of our Laplanders. But in May, the does produced each two young fawns; hardy little creatures from their birth, though they were not sheltered, like the young of the fallow-deer, in snug beds of thick green fern, but laid upon the wet snow. But snow is the element of the rein-deer; and Karin and the dogs and the fawns rolled over and over together in the midst of it.

All the winter storms had been snow and sleet; but in May came rain: and then fresh leaves and flowers burst forth from day to day. The Lapland summer comes with no loitering step. No deceitful sunshine tempts the buds to open, and the early flowers to peep out, to

be pinched when they are scarcely blown, by the keen frosty wind, or bruised by the hail-storms. The face of nature changes as if touched by a fairy's wand ; and frozen winter is at once succeeded by the full blaze and loveliness of summer. The ice and snow vanish in a surprisingly short time ; the rivers, swelled by the added waters, rush rapidly along ; and where, a few days before, the pale light had gleamed upon a cascade frozen into icicles, the torrent dashes over the rock, with all its foam and spray glittering in the brightness of the sunbeams.

Early in June, the cold, dreary winter had left no trace of its rigorous sway. The lakes again reflected the deep blue sky ; except, indeed, where the very air was darkened by the innumerable flocks of water-fowl, which came from the south, leaving more cultivated countries, they they might rear their young unmolested on the solitary banks of the Lapland

streams. The larks rose quavering in the air; the dragon-flies darted about in every direction; the small wasp hung its white and globe-shaped nest to the lower branches of the fir-trees; the birches and the aspens were once more gay with their young leaves; and even the stiff and gloomy pines were brightened by their fresh shoots, hanging in light green tassels from the end of every spray.

The ground, in some parts, does not quite lose its snowy hue; for the rein-deer moss is of a whitish tinge; and where it is in very great abundance, the country looks as if it were still sprinkled with snow. In other parts the hills rise to view, gilded with a brilliant yellow, from the peculiar colour of another species of moss, common in the country. Then there were large patches of soil covered with the smooth and shining leaves of the whortleberry. The lily of the valley was to be found occasionally. and the beautiful and

refreshing cloudberry every where spreading over the marshy ground. The woods and borders of the streams were gay with hardy, but beautiful wild flowers.

Where the trees are thickest the graceful *Linnæa borealis* is to be found, nodding its twin, bell-shaped blossoms of delicate pink, just above the moss, among which trail its long and slender stems. The fine perfume of its flowers betrays their hiding place, long before their beauty meets the eye; but they owe their peculiar charm to the appellation which has been bestowed upon them.

This little northern plant takes its name from Charles Linnæus, who was born in 1707. He was the son of a Swedish clergyman, whose small curacy was at that period situated in the province of Smaland; and whose stipend was so moderate, that he was happy to add to his income by the sale of curious

flower-roots. Of course he was a diligent gardener ; and had gayer blossoms around his low-roofed parsonage than were elsewhere often to be found : and of course, too, flowers were the first beautiful toys that attracted the eyes of little Charles. As a French poet has expressed himself :—

“Ses mains pour hochet demandèrent des fleurs.”

The father of Linnæus had afterwards a better living given him ; and there was a large garden attached to the manse. When he was about eight years old, young Charles had a piece of garden-ground allotted for his own ; and he began immediately to ramble in the woods in search of new flowers for its embellishment. This directed his attention to insects also. While he was at college his remarkable love for plants caught the notice of a literary society at Upsal ; and it was by the especial recommendation of Celsius and Rud-

beck, two of its leading members, that, during the summer of 1732, he passed six months in Lapland.

In this country he discovered upwards of a hundred plants, which were entirely unknown, or undescribed before; and here, too, birds became the subject of his studies. Some time afterwards, a visit to the copper-mines of Fahlun, the capital of Dalecarlia, a province of his native Sweden, led him to include mineralogy amongst his favourite pursuits. Subsequently he searched so diligently into the economy of the whole of animated nature, that he succeeded in giving a classification of animals, vegetables, and minerals, which will ever be of the greatest value to science. It was not long after the publication of his first work, the "*Systema Naturæ*," for he wrote in Latin for the benefit of all nations, that he visited England, with a letter of introduction to Sir Hans Sloane, from Boer-

haave, the celebrated physician of Amsterdam. “He who shall see you both together,” said Boerhaave in this letter, “will see two men whose like will scarcely ever be found in the world.”

When Linnæus arose, as he did by his talents, to wealth and distinction, the little flower, which has led me to give you this brief account of him, was wreathed around the crest to his coat of arms; and a gentleman, who had been one of his many pupils, in the delightful science of natural history, and who afterwards travelled into the East in pursuit of further knowledge, sent his old master a service of porcelain from China, decorated with no other ornament than the graceful *Linnæa borealis*.

The only son of Sir Charles Linnæus died early in life, the last of his family. And thus ended, for this distinguished naturalist, “the boast of heraldry:” but where shall end



the long line of light that issued from the useful application of his talents? Others, guided by his steady lamp, may strike out new and valuable paths of science; but his touch was like the wand of the fairy, Order, in Mrs. Barbauld's pretty tale. The "*pomp of power*" was never his; but the greatest blessing power can confer, that of serving his fellow-creatures, was all his own.

Now that the forests were so pleasant and so lively, you will suppose that our Laplanders were delighted to remain amongst them, and enjoy their shade. But summer, with its leaves and flowers, brought to life also an intolerable plague, in the shape of swarms of mosquitoes, and other insects. Those who are accustomed only to the occasional bite of the common gnat, or even to the troublesome little midge, have no idea of the positive misery the mosquitoes inflict throughout the whole of

Lapland. The swarms are like a mist before the eyes ; and the natives are content to smear their faces with a composition of tar and grease, rather than remain exposed to their attacks. I suppose you are Latin scholar enough, Edward, to understand the phrase, *calamitas felicissima* ; but Marian will like to be told the English version, “most fortunate calamity.” Both of you may learn from the application, how beneficial it is in all cases “to find good in every thing.” Even amidst the irritation occasioned by the punctures of the venomous mosquitoes, Linnæus, who made use of this expression, could rejoice in the consideration that these swarms of insects might be considered as the great inducement to the multitude of birds which flock to Lapland in the summer season, and thereby provide ample means of subsistence to its inhabitants. A circumstance which is indeed most fortunate

for these people, who so entirely depend on the productions of nature for their support.

The poor rein-deer are tormented by a large species of gad-fly, which pierces even their thick hides, and deposits its eggs in the wound. Another insect of the same kind lays its eggs in the poor beast's nostrils: maddened with pain, the victim attempts to escape from its enemies by flying towards the mountains; and, if the Laplanders were to remain in the forests during the months of June, July and August, they would lose a great part of their herd by sickness or flight.

The valleys towards the sea-coast are less infested by insects; and the high, or open grounds are nearly free from them. As soon, therefore, as the snow was melted, and the ground sufficiently dried to enable them to travel, our party began their summer rambles. While they were preparing for their departure, they lighted large fires, in the smoke of which

the rein-deer held their heads to escape the stings of the insects; which, small as they are, are more terrible to them than even the fierce wolves themselves; for against these tiny enemies horns and hoofs are no protection, and deer have not long tails to lash their sides, like horses.

The fawns have a much more formidable-looking enemy than the gnat tribe. The eagle builds its eyry on the highest rocks and trees; and sometimes, pouncing down suddenly upon the herd, it will bear away a young one in its talons to be the food of its eaglets.

It was well for little Eric, when he was swinging in his komsio under the trees, that he was so secured by the strings which crossed over the top, that he could not be laid hold of; or else, perhaps, even in spite of Ellen's watchfulness some cunning old bird might have contrived to carry him off. Once a poor Lapland mother did lose her baby in this

manner ; and the eagle carried her child to a rock so dangerous to climb, that no one but the mother would make the attempt. She succeeded, and reached the nest ; but the poor little thing was already dead, and all she could do was to rescue its remains from the birds of prey.

As the deer give milk only for the first three months after the birth of their fawns, these are not allowed to suck very long ; and, since they cannot be weaned by being shut up away from their mothers, for the Laplanders have no sheds and cowhouses to put them in, thorns are fastened round the noses of the little creatures, and when the does feel them pricking, they drive the fawns away. This compels them to find food for themselves ; and they soon learn to browse on the young green shoots which are everywhere to be found in such abundance.

But, before we lose sight of the forests, I

will describe to you the method of procuring tar: for although there was no tar-work in the immediate neighbourhood of our Laplanders, yet tar-works are very frequently found in many of the forests, not very far south of their usual wanderings.

The process by which tar is obtained is very simple. The most favourable situation is in a forest, near to an extensive bog; because the roots of the fir-trees, from which tar is principally extracted, are always the most productive in such places. A rather deep cavity is then made in the ground, generally in the side of a bank, or sloping hill, and the roots of the fir, together with logs and billets of the wood from the tree, being neatly trussed into a stack of the same size and shape as the hole made to receive it, the bundle is let down into the cavity. Turf is then laid over the top, and this, by means of heavy wooden mallets is so beaten down by the two men whose business

it is to procure the tar, that the surface above the billets of wood is rendered as firm as possible. The stack is then kindled ; a small aperture in the turf, over the centre of the truss, having been left to promote the combustion, which takes place slowly, without flame, as in making charcoal. During this combustion the tar exudes, and is received into a cast-iron pan, which has been previously placed at the bottom of the funnel-shaped hole. This pan is provided with a pipe that projects through the side of the bank. To prevent the possibility of the bank itself giving way, which, but for the precaution, might sometimes occur, long planks of wood are laid horizontally one upon the other, up the whole front of the slope, and secured firmly in their places by strong beams laid against them, in the form of buttresses. Barrels are in readiness, and one after another are placed beneath the spout at the end of the pipe ; and in this

manner the fluid is collected as it runs off. As fast as the barrels are filled they are bunged, and thus ready for immediate exportation. Tar is composed, in fact, of turpentine, melted by fire, mixed with the sap and juices of the fir, and blackened by the same process. The residue of the wood, becoming charred, is converted into charcoal.



## CHAPTER VII.



Summer Dress—Campaign—Charles's Sceptre—Beneficence of the Creator — The Loon — Salmon-striking—The Pet Woodcock—A Conflagration—The Setting Sun — A Journey—Wild Ducks—The Cloudberry—Favourite Beverage—Grouse.

THE snow having entirely disappeared, sledges were no longer of use. These, and all their accommodations for winter, were deposited in the storehouse, which every Lapland family possesses, near the church of the parish to which they belong.

Our Laplanders put on their summer-dress, which consisted of the same kind of carter's frock, only made of coarse woollen cloth, instead of skins, and a light cap of woollen also. The men wore loose pantaloons,

frequently made of fawn-skins. And neither men nor women forgot to have a little embroidery of brass wire on their caps and girdles, as well as what other embellishments they could contrive to obtain.

All being prepared, some of the deer were laden with the tent and the poles to prop it up; for they were going to a part of the country where these were not to be found; the trees beyond the arctic circle are even more diminutive in comparison to the lofty denizens of more southern lands, than the pigmy race of human beings who dwell in these high latitudes. The remainder of the property needful for the summer campaign was also packed on the deer. Erie, in his little cradle, was slung to the back of one of the steadiest of the whole tribe. The rest of the herd, delighted to fly far away from the gad-flies, and to snuff the fresh breeze in the open country, bounded along, cropping the tender

herbs and the young shoots of the mountain-shrubs as they passed.

The family followed on foot, travelling by easy stages, not more than six or seven good long miles in a day ; and often halting for two or three days together in some pleasant spot on the banks of a lake or stream, where the garlands of bright rose-coloured willow-herb clustered in profusion, and the white, starry blossoms of the grass of Parnassus were reflected by the clear water. Here and there, spreading its green leaves, toothed at their edges like a saw, over the pebbles by the river's brink, arose to a height of four or five feet, the flowering stem of a solitary plant which has been called Charles's sceptre, in consequence of the eleventh Charles of Sweden having, when he visited Tornea, in 1694, admired its blossoms so much that he is said to have constantly walked about with one of the regal-looking stems in his hand. Its large golden

flowers, of a snap-dragon form, grow in tiers round the stalk, and their lips are tinged with a bright ruby-coloured spot. There were wreaths of dog-roses too, and wild pinks, filling the very air with sweetness. The scentless violet, and the little bright blue gentian were scattered with no sparing hand ; and the strawberry-like fruit of the delicious clond-berry contributed to make the first resting-place they fixed on completely inviting. The wild bees hummed and hovered over all these sweets ; and more than once Amund managed to trace them to their waxen cells in the old trunk of a tree, or the cleft of a rock, and bring home a feast of their honey. The air rung with the sounds of life and cheerfulness.

In Lapland, you see, as elsewhere, man may well exclaim in accents of thankfulness to the bounteous Creator, “Thou mak'st all nature beauty to his eye, and music to his ear.”

There was one curious bird which often swept rapidly over their heads, and was eagerly watched by Niels with his cross-bow. He tried to bring it down, that he might get possession of its gorget of red feathers, to decorate the front of his cap. They call this bird the loon: it is a species of the colymbus, or diver, about the size of a goose, and lays its eggs close to the water's edge. Its head is black, and the rest of its body grey, black, and white, except the splendid spot of plumage on its breast, which distinguishes it from others of the same class.

It was at one of their halting-places on their return from their summer excursion that the animating scene occurred which I will relate to you in the words of a traveller who witnessed the sport. "Scarcely had evening commenced when the large and brilliant fires of the torches, prepared for salmon-striking, were seen everywhere floating on

the clear surface of the water. They were fixed to the prows of the numerous boats which crossed one another in all directions, and cast their strong light on the immovable figure of the striker, who stood, with his murderous trident, in readiness for the blow. It seemed as if these fires were driven over the water by some unknown power, so silently did they glide along, and so still was the figure at the head of the boat. Suddenly an electrical spark of life darts through his frame. In a moment the trident is driven with force into the water, and the struck salmon, by its windings, only fixes the barbs deeper into its head." In some places where this sport is pursued, the fires are not exactly torches, but iron baskets fixed to the prow, and containing large chips of burning fir, which are replenished from time to time from a store in the boat. The salmon, attracted by the blazing light, raises himself slowly above the

surface of the water, and then is the moment when the harpooner strikes ; and, holding his victim aloft, he secures him for his prey. Should he fail in the first attempt, the pilot who steers the light vessel, supplies him with a second trident, from others that are kept in readiness.

But, in truth, I have been in too great haste to make you acquainted with all the enjoyments which our Laplanders could command, and have not considered the exact season for salmon-striking, which is really about two months later than the period of the year at which we are arrived in our story. Towards the middle of August the sun goes down at ten o'clock in the evening ; and then they get darkness sufficient for their torch-fires to have due effect.

You would not like their salmon-feasts better than some of their winter dishes. They will either cut off a slice at once, and eat it

raw, as oysters, you know, are eaten ; or they will lay the fish in salt for a single night, and then it is accounted a most delicious morsel.

Perch, however, and many other fish, which they caught in nets, began now to be found in great abundance : and, while the men were busily engaged in securing a good store for food, Karin, as she loitered about, found a pet in a woodcock, or becassine, as they are sometimes called in the north of Europe. Its bright dark eye betrayed the bird, as it sat quietly on its nest, among the twisted roots of a fine old fir-tree. The wild flowers clustered round its head, and the night-dew was still hanging from their leaves, and still glittering in the sun-beams, when she spied it out. She stole cautiously round, meaning to seize it from behind ; but the quick eye of the woodcock caught sight of her. It half turned its head, but it did not move from its place. She



stood over it, and at last ventured gently to stroke its head ; but it sat perfectly still, and she could not resolve to carry it off while it seemed to trust her so entirely. Ellen was not well ; and it was determined to remain in this spot, so convenient for their fishing, till she was a little better. So Karin had an opportunity of watching her woodcock from day to day ; and you may be sure she stroked its head often enough. One day when the bird happened to be absent for a short time, she got a sight of the nest. It contained five eggs, about the size of a pigeon's, and of a rusty colour, marked with brown spots. She would gladly have waited to see the young ones ; but the march was to recommence, and away she was obliged to go.

There was, indeed, no time to lose. For some Lapps, wandering like themselves in search of "fresh fields, and pastures ever new," had kindled large fires at the place of

their temporary halt, to keep off the mosquitoes and other insects from themselves and their beasts. These they had left burning. The fire, driven by the wind, had seized on the dry leaves and moss, and at length a large portion of the forest itself was in flames. The distant sky was red with the conflagration; and a bear, crossing the river during the night, had killed two does, belonging to the herd before our Laplanders could chase it away. Karin trembled for her poor little woodcock; for she knew that the wolves and the foxes would be driven by the fire from their distant dens, and would come over the water for refuge, and then they might run towards this very spot.

You will not suppose Lapland girls to be sentimental; but all young people, and old ones too, if they do not suffer their taste to be corrupted, feel with ecstacy the sublime beauties of nature. Rendered, perhaps, a little melancholy by the too probable fate of

her poor woodcock, it was with something very like a sensation of sorrow to quit so lovely a scene, that Karin looked at the setting sun, the evening before their departure. His broad disk, like red-hot iron, appeared as large as the forewheel of a carriage ; and the clouds were still tinged with the glowing hues of his departure, at the point where, by the intervention of the dark mass of the forest, he seemed to go down, when the horizon was in a blaze with what seemed his rising.

Meanwhile a heavy dew had fallen, almost in a moment, which ascending again as day advanced, rose like wreaths of the whitest smoke, filling all the valleys, and skirting the sides of the woods.

A sudden diminution of temperature had been felt in the middle of the night, as contrasted with the heat of the day ; but it was owing only to the flatness of their position that they could

not see the sun gliding round the horizon even at the midnight hour.

The party had remained out of doors, watching the progress of the flames, and keeping guard against the probable disasters that might occur. They were all tired enough of the long hot day, when they lay down by turns to snatch a little rest before setting forward on their travels.

Early in the morning they were all on foot. Karin in her short petticoats and wolf's-skin apron, with a blue cap on her head, and a wallet, made of the bark of trees, hanging behind her, paced along at the rate of five miles an hour; but this was merely for the pleasure of getting forward, for as I have told you, their real progress was slow.

At the next stage of their journey, resting, as they always did, near the water, the wild ducks, followed by their young ones, were

swimming about in great numbers. The old ones, when they saw the sportsman approach, played all sorts of tricks to attract notice ; while the ducklings hurried off to the hiding-places at the edge of the water. Sometimes the old ducks would lead the way to the nearest cataract ; and there, diving in the very midst of the headlong torrent, they would pass with the brood far away from their baffled pursuers. But Niels and Amund were not often to be so deceived. They followed the course of the stream, and watching the opportunity, as the birds dipped and dived below the surface, they plunged a long pole into the water upon the back of some unfortunate duck, which turning it instantly over, caused it to rise to the surface, and it was taken before it had time to recover itself, and swim away.

Niels and his party fared sumptuously here ; for with five fat ducks for their dinner, they

had a regular dessert of cloudberryes ; and they would have loitered longer where they were so well off, only that they did not like the probable neighbourhood of bears. They had seen numbers of ants' nests, which in these wildernesses are often four or five feet high, and formed by the heaping together of the small leaves and fibres of the pines and firs, notwithstanding they had been well plastered and secured, all overturned, and scattered about. This they knew to be the work of bears, in search of the small white maggots, the young of the ant, so often called ants' eggs ; and they were fearful that these hungry creatures, tired of their vermicelli-puddings, might spring upon them from the close underwood where they lay crouching.

I have told you how delicious the cloudberry is. It was easy to gather bushels of it in this spot. Its fruit is about twice the size of the large hautboy-strawberry, and not un-

like it in flavour. The berries hung so thick upon the ground that it was scarcely possible to step without treading on them. As they ripen they lose their bright scarlet colour, and turn yellow; but the flavour of the fruit is not then so refreshing to the palate. The Lapps often made a jelly of it, by boiling it with fish.

Their favourite drink was what they called *pima*, a kind of sour milk and water which had been left to ferment; and which, perhaps, resembles a beverage, somewhat of the same kind, in use among the Tartar tribes; only that these last make theirs from mare's milk, instead of from the milk of the rein-deer.

They took birds' eggs, too, by suspending from the boughs of the trees wooden cylinders about two feet in length, and closed at one end, made of the hollowed stem of a young fir-tree. Here the unsuspecting creatures were decoyed to deposit their eggs; and many a

dainty dish was added to the table, or at least to the meals of our wanderers, by devices like these. They had often the common black cock; and the capercaillie too, the largest of the grouse kind, sometimes sprung up, with its odd croaking noise, and was brought to the ground by a shot from Amund's rifle, or a whizzing shaft from the cross-bow.



## CHAPTER VIII.



Instinct of the Rein-deer—Shore Laplanders—Seal-hunters—The Safety-pike—Effects of severe Cold—Crossing the Sea—Iceland Moss—Summer's Evening—Milking—Cheese—Disgusting Habits—Sea-fowl—Sagacity of their Dogs.

AT length the herd of deer had arrived in view of the ocean. Instantly they all bounded forwards, and drank eagerly of the sea-water. It is curious that their instinct teaches them this remedy, as it is supposed, against the swarms of flies which they continually swallow. The Laplanders say that it is necessary for the health of the deer that they should drink the sea-water once every season; but that they never need, or touch it afterwards.

Our party determined to cross over to one of the numerous islands which are the favourite

haunts of the wandering Lapps, because these are cooled by the sea-breezes ; and, besides, in them they would be more secure from the attacks of wolves and bears : for though these animals do sometimes swim over, attracted by the smell of the deer ; yet, as there are no forests to conceal them, they are easily discovered, and put to flight by the watchful Lapps.

Their first care was to convey the herd over safely ; and for this purpose they engaged a number of boats from the shore Laplanders.

I must now explain to you, that there is a class of Lapps who never take up their quarters in the forests, but live always on the sea-coast, subsisting entirely by fishing. These have no rein-deer, and they are called shore, or sea Laplanders. They do not appear to us to have so much enjoyment of life as the rich proprietors of rein-deer ; yet the seal-hunters would perhaps not willingly exchange their

hardy sport on the ice for any of the winter amusements of a forest-hut. These men, when the sea is frozen over, creep about among the rocks with their rifle-barrelled guns, watching for the appearance of a seal's head through an aperture in the ice. The animal must sometimes come up for air; and the moment a seal-hunter perceives one of them thrusting his nose through any of the holes to breathe, he levels his gun, and despatches him. They are expert marksmen, and seldom miss their aim.

Seals are amongst those creatures that are fitted to endure the cold. The young are left on the bare surface of the ice, in frozen caverns among the rocks, and sometimes in cavities of the ice itself. During the day-time, the old seals dive through the holes and chasms into the abyss below for food; and at night steal unperceived to the place where they have deposited their little ones, carrying with them

the fish they have taken ; and there they feed them. If the seal-hunters find any of these creatures upon the ice, or on the shore, they easily put them to death with the safety-pike they always carry with them, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the ice will bear their weight. These pikes are about six feet in length, having at the lower extremity an iron spike, with a sharp and strong hook. The spike is used to try the thickness of the ice : if the water should not spout up after two or three stabs with the spike, the ice will bear more than the weight of a man. The hook is for the purpose of dragging out the bodies of those who are so unfortunate as to slip through the many crevices that occur in these dangerous expeditions.

The seal-hunters generally go in pairs in search of their game ; and they watch for hours about the same spot for the appearance of the seals. Their dress consists of a jacket

of sheep's-skin, worn with the wool towards the body, and fastened by a leather belt round the waist. They have seal's-skin sandals, and a fur cap. It is said that the sandals, which are a sort of half-boot, bound over the foot and ankle with cords, or thongs of leather, are peculiarly valuable when made of seal's-skin, from its property of resisting moisture ; in consequence of which the snow does not penetrate. They are usually worn with the hair outside, and a little soft moss and reindeer-hair for lining. The hunters carry the rifle at their backs, and in their right hand the safety-pike, which they use as a walking-stick. In extreme cold their faces are often frozen. Spots as white as the snow itself appear on their cheeks ; and while one of them is rubbing these for his companion with handfuls of snow, his own nose will, perhaps, turn white too. They dare not enter a warm room while these spots are visible ; they are obliged to remain

outside, and rub them with snow till they disappear entirely, or a sore is sure to be the consequence, which leaves a black scar for life. The great danger arises from a person not himself perceiving that the cold has thus seized on him. Some one must be there to say, "Sir, your nose is white," or he runs the hazard of its mortifying before he is aware of it.

The boats being engaged by our Laplanders, the fawns were placed in them, and some of the weakest of the deer tied behind. When the rest of the herd saw these crossing, being moreover pressed by the dogs, they all took to the water; and, with their heads and part of their shoulders rising above the surface, they swam light and strong, though the sea was rather boisterous, and the distance across several miles. All being landed in safety on the opposite shore, the tent was again pitched, on the banks of a clear mountain-lake, in a pleasant sheltered valley, partly enclosed by

steep hills, and on one side opening to a fine view of the sea. The low ground was clothed with a thick cover of dwarf birch and aspen, useful for firing ; the lake promised a plentiful supply of fish ; and the hills good pasturage for the deer.

The peculiar moss on which the rein-deer feed becomes dry and brittle in the heat of summer ; but then there are the young shoots of all the dwarf trees which flourish in the same soil ; and there is fresh-springing clover, too, and grass from the short turf in the valleys. As autumn advances the moss becomes soft, tender, and damp ; in which state the snow preserves it throughout the winter. It seems then to be blanched, and somewhat resembles, in its substance and whiteness, the curled leaves of endive. It is cooling and juicy to the palate, and yet it imparts a grateful warmth to the stomach. Travellers, and even their servants, often eat it as a pleasant





and the crackling hoofs of the deer, as they return from their distant feeding ground, to be milked. The busy dogs run on all sides, bringing the deer round and round. Soon appear the foremost, bounding and trotting, then stopping to listen, and trotting forwards again. Sometimes one lapping behind, round by the dogs, raises its head, and tossing its large proud antlers, with a flick and light snap, speedily overtakes its companions.

When all are enclosed in the fold, which is a piece of ground cleared of brushwood, and surrounded by rough poles and branches, the deer stand in numbers "like ants upon an ant-hill." Then forth come the women with their milk pails. The deer, with all their gentleness, have no fancy for standing still to be milked; so it is necessary, in the first place, to catch them, by throwing round their horns a cord made of the twisted fibres of the birch; and when secured, they are either held, or fastened

to a bush. They are sometimes so refractory that they will drag their holder all round the fold. Karin, who was growing up a wild, mischievous girl, amongst this steady party, would sometimes amuse herself by letting one escape, just for the fun of seeing the confusion that was sure to be the consequence. The scared creature, by its struggling and trotting about, set the whole herd in commotion : Ellen shook her milk-pail, and panting Heinrich toiled after it for a long time in vain ; while old Marit employed herself in bestowing a grave scolding on Miss Karin for her freaks.

Each deer gives about a tea-cup full of milk ; but this, though small in quantity, is very delicious, and as rich as cream ; so rich that it is not wholesome unless mixed with water. The Laplanders, however, drink very little of it : they save all they can to make cheese. Butter forms no part of their dairy.

As soon as the milking was over, a large fire

was lighted in the tent, which then became so hot that nothing but a Lapp could possibly have breathed within it. The milk was then poured into a large iron pot ; and the rennet, which is made from a part of the stomach of a deer, was put into it. After remaining a short time on the fire, it became curd, and was then poured into wooden moulds, and pressed into the usual form of a cheese. Each was about the size of a common plate, and not more than an inch in thickness. The whey which remained was then poured into another vessel, and mixed with a quantity of wild berries which Karin had gathered in the morning; then, having been boiled upon the fire till it was quite thick, the whole mess was turned out into a birch-bowl for the family supper.

They had whortleberries, cranberries, bilberries, and cloudberryes : none of the others so good as the cloudberry, which I have al-



[illegible]

Although, and thanks to, French, printed over the years, few have reached CD and the Internet, as no library, in Hungary, owned the book, but neither where the young, American

and grazing continually, or lying down, as their fancy dictates.

Part of the troop of dogs attended their masters at a time ; and these sagacious animals seemed to know when their turn came ; for as soon as their masters got up, and prepared to go out for the purpose of following the deer, up jumped the ready dogs, and sprang forward before them ; while the others remained comfortably stretched at their ease, sound asleep within the tent.

## CHAPTER IX.

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Manner of crossing the Rapids—Boats—Fair of Kiemi—Lapland Politeness—Flowers—Approach of Winter—Splendour of the Moon—Means of Barter.

THE last day of July was come: they had again seen a star twinkling in the heavens; the first sign to them that the nights were lengthening.

But August followed, and brought with it great joy for Karin; for it was from this spot, while the deer were so well fed, and so secure from ravenous beasts, that Amund and Ellen set off for the great fair at Kiemi, and took Karin with them. They crossed over from their island, and went part of the way down the rivers.

The Lapland rivers are full of cataracts, which are called rapids. I must borrow from the same traveller who describes the salmon-striking, to give you an idea of one of the most formidable of these. "It is fortunate," said the clergyman of the parish to our author, who wished to see the cataract in question, "it is fortunate that our old trusty waterman is here ; he will take you over the fall."

The traveller goes on to say, "I heard its roar of waters long before we approached them. The river was still gliding smoothly on. Then followed several falls ; they were not high, nor long ; but the stream became rough and agitated. Rocks began now to rise along both sides, and points to appear above the surface. The rushing water pressed through between the closely approaching rocks. The waves began to rear themselves up, to foam and dash one over another. They drove the



boat with incredible rapidity down the abyss ; they dashed over in the most wild and alarming commotion. The sky, rocks, and woods all disappeared ; and nothing was seen or heard but the foam and roaring of the water. The wave drives the boat, with one sweep, against the rock ; but the bold pilot guides it with a strong and steady hand, with still greater rapidity than the wave, as if in sport, from one side to the other. And the next moment it is again floating on the no longer agitated current.

“ The first waterman who attempted this alarming fall, must have been a man of matchless boldness ; and even now this passage is never entrusted to any but the most experienced individuals. The two men in the forepart of the boat have a most frightful appearance ; their fixed looks, their eyes, which seem to start from their sockets, endeavouring to read every thought of the pilot. Every muscle

is strained in the highest degree, and the arms only are in motion.”

All the rapids, however, are not quite of this dangerous character ; but Karin had to sit very steady, and Ellen trembled for the safety of her little Eric in more than one of these descents.

The boats are about the size of a Thames wherry, but drawing less water. They lie upon the surface like a feather, and are particularly elegant in their crescent-shaped form. They are constructed of thin slips of deal, kept clean, and even polished, by continual friction. They are all made by the natives, with scarcely any other instrument than their knives ; and are beautiful specimens of their ingenuity. The light boat has the convenience of being easily thrown over the head of the boatman, and thus carried from stream to stream, or along the banks of cataracts too impetuous to be navigated.

A great fair is held annually at Kiemi, or Chimmy, as the people of that country call the place. Here Karin saw the lively people of Finland, in all their merriest moods, and all their gayest dresses: the men sometimes in white, sometimes in blue, black, or grey jackets and trousers; sometimes in long, white coats; always in a red or yellow sash embroidered with flowers, and buskins on their feet, bound about the ancles with scarlet garters ending in a black tassel. The women were gayer and finer than any thing she had ever thought of in her life before. Their garments were, in many instances, of rich silk or damask, brocaded with large flowers. Short scarlet or striped jackets, white hoods or kerchiefs completed their finery; and as she looked at them, she might have fancied herself in Venice, if she had ever heard of such a place.

The fair itself is held in an island on the river. The goods are lodged in log-houses

standing in rows, so as to form a street : and such a street for quantity of useful and tempting merchandize, that Karin thought all the people in the world could never want the various articles she saw there, or wear out the clothes that were hung up for sale.

People came from Russia and from Sweden to this fair ; and many a bright button, and many a useful knife, to say nothing of rifle-barrelled guns, found their way through Kiemi even to the North Cape.

Whenever Amund met an acquaintance of his own nation, each gently raised his fine-worked scull-cap from his head ; for you may be sure the very best was brought out on so grand an occasion as a visit to a fair ; and then throwing one arm round each other, the salutation was complete, according to the established forms of Lapland politeness. These are ceremonies which the wildest Laplander never omits, wherever he may chance to meet

one of his tribe. You may suppose these cordial greetings added much to the appearance of harmony at the fair.

Whenever one happens to sneeze, too, it is the custom amongst all these northern nations to make a low bow to the person, accompanied by some sort of benediction, in the manner of our "God bless you."

Karin met with one or two little girls of her own age, and they were all speedily friends together ; and in their rambles about the neighbourhood of the town, (for she liked to see every thing now she was once on her travels,) she found new flowers, always a treat to her, to whom flowers formed so great a part of her enjoyment during her short summer.

The pretty little arctic raspberry, and the curious lady's-slipper grow there. This lady's-slipper is known by botanists as the *cypripedium bulbosum* : it is sent from this

place to the gardens of curious collectors in different parts of the world. You may as well, also, be told that *rubus arcticus* is the scientific name of the little raspberry ; and, while we are on the subject, you will perhaps remember that the cloudberry is the *rubus chamæmorus*.

Having completed their purchases, the party set off from Kiemi to rejoin Niels and Marit.

The nights were beginning to be cold ; but still, has had been the case all through the summer, hot gusts of wind, as from a stove, would be felt on ascending any little hill ; so thoroughly had the air been heated by the constant presence of the sun.

Their way was often lonely ; no sound disturbed the stillness, but the occasional crackling of the elks' and wild rein-deer's hoofs, as they strayed along the hills, and the continual piping of the woodcocks in their marshy retreats. The moon, now nearly at full, rose in

size and splendour such as she is seen in England through a good telescope ; scarcely did the day-light seem diminished, though it was actually much shortened.

In Lapland the moon, from the effect of a peculiar property in the atmosphere, appears very much larger than we ever see it ; and sometimes takes an oval form, looking, as a traveller tells us who so beheld it, “ like a vast egg, resting upon rolling and brilliant clouds.”

The deer had been enclosed in the fold for some hours every night while Amund was away ; and with September came such a busy time that it was from this period the regular practice to bring them, as in the winter, round the tent. Besides, as the season advanced, the days and nights became equal ; and early in the month, they had all crossed the water from the island, that they might be nearer to the places where Amund had to hunt the wild reindeer and the bears, and Niels to bring down

the grey squirrels, that they might have plenty of furs for the next great fair-day, before the winter set in; for there are no towns with shops scattered over these wild regions: all their purchases must be made at the different fairs which are held through the summer and autumn; often at places at great distances from one another. By these means the population of all the different districts get an opportunity of supplying themselves with the few articles necessary for their comfort and subsistence.



## CHAPTER X.

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The Tent—Pursuit of the Rein-deer—Value of the wild Deer—The Lynx and Glutton—Entrapping the Wolves—Preparing for Trade—Mode of attacking the Bear.

BEING once more on main land, they again set up their tent ; but on this occasion they covered it with turf, as in winter ; for already there had been frosty nights, and even a little snow had fallen. Their habitation would have looked like a green hillock, but for the smoke issuing from the top ; for the turfs were fresh and moist, and many alpine plants were still growing on them, some with a few straggling late blossoms, and many with their purple, black, or red berries still hanging in abundance amongst the fading leaves.

Amund sallied forth continually in pursuit of rein-deer. The wild herds find the gad-flies of the forest as intolerable during the summer as the tame ones do. They, also, leave their shelter for the more open country ; and like to wander towards the coast, to enjoy the cool breezes. Sometimes they come to the edge of a stream to drink, perhaps five or six together ; for they do not, of course, collect into such very large herds as those I have described to you in a domestic state.

The pursuit of the rein-deer, though not dangerous like that of the bears, is very fatiguing and trying to the patience, from the difficulty of either finding or getting near to them ; for they are very shy ; and though they will lift up their heads from their drinking, and stand and gaze quietly at any persons passing them in a boat, yet when the hunters draw nigh, the animals appear to be well aware that mischief is intended ; and their

sense of smell is so very acute, that if they are approached from the side on which the wind blows, they will detect their enemy, even at the distance of a mile ; and instantly starting off, elude the keenest pursuit. Amund, therefore, chose the calmest days for this sport ; and many a weary chase he had, panting over hill and dale ; for now he had no snow-skates to skim away like a bird.

One day, after toiling for hours, climbing the mountains, without a breath of air to refresh him, he at last sat down to rest upon the brow of a steep hill ; and looking around him, saw at a great distance a herd feasting on the thick grass in the valley far below his feet. " Now," thought he, " I have you : " and, cautiously creeping down, and stealing softly behind them, he had nearly got within shot, when one amongst them suddenly lifted up its head, pricked its ears, listened, and snuffed around. Immediately the rest took alarm, and

away scudded the whole herd, leaving poor, weary, disappointed Amund miles behind.

Towards the end of the month, when the days were often misty, he had better success. For when, during a fog, he could by any means gain intelligence whereabouts they were, he had a good chance of taking them by surprise; and many a one he succeeded in obtaining for his prey.

Their limbs and carcasses were hung upon the dwarf birch-trees round the tent, that they might dry in the wind. The hides were carefully preserved, either for exchange or for their own use; and many of the horns were boiled down for glue. There is no part of the animal for which our careful managers had not some use. They particularly prized the skin taken from the legs and feet, for of this they generally made themselves shoes.

The wild deer are larger, and stronger, and

more savage than the tame ones ; and even if taken young and trained, as is sometimes done in the early part of the summer, when they are caught alive in traps and snares, they are not so tractable as those bred in a domestic state. These creatures have other enemies besides man. A species of lynx is sometimes found in the northern forests, which will suck their blood, leaving their carcasses for the wolves to devour. And the glutton, when a rein-deer had been induced to loiter under a tree to erop a fresh morsel of moss, would spring upon it from the overhanging branches, and fastening itself firmly between the rein-deer's horns, would begin its cruel work by tearing out the poor creature's eyes. When the voracious animal has once firmly fixed himself by the claws and teeth it is impossible to remove him. There he clings, and the victim vainly seeks his safety in flight. He darts, horror-stricken, from the fatal spot : but all too late

he bears with him the tormentor that is draining his life-blood. The loitering step was his ruin ; and the speed that might have saved him avails not now. At last, he either drops exhausted from the loss of blood, on which the glutton had been feasting from the moment it had fastened itself on its prey ; or, frantic from the agony of his pain, he dashes his against head a tree, and thus falls lifeless to the earth.

The glutton is a creature of the bear species. It is only three feet long, exclusive of the tail, which measures a foot in length. Its fur is of a glossy black colour, and shines with peculiar lustre, reflecting different shades of light, according to the position in which it is held.

Amund thought himself fortunate that he had three times this year caught one of these animals. For, besides the great value of the fur, Marit and Ellen were delighted to have

the skin of the legs to make into gloves ; which they ornamented with a tinsel wire they contrived to draw out tolerably fine, through a kind of machine pierced for the purpose, and made of the skull of the rein-deer.

It was a dangerous business, however, to lay hold on the glutton : even when, by having gorged himself on his prey, he was not able to escape easily, he would make a stout resistance with his teeth. And when, as in one case, he was caught in a trap, he had nearly managed to break it in pieces, when Amund luckily came up and despatched him. The glutton, like the fox, hides in the earth those portions of the carcass which he cannot devour at once.

The swallows and rooks were now gone ; but with them had vanished the constant annoyance of insects. October had frozen the lakes ; the leaves of the birch and osiers

were dropping fast; the sharp night-air set keenly against their faces, when they peeped out under the curtained door of their tent; the young wolves were growing strong and venturesome, and our Laplanders had to watch against their attacks. They contrived, however, more than one large pit-fall in the neighbourhood of their tent; and there the crouching beast was often found, and speedily knocked on the head. His skin, after being dried, was rolled up and laid aside with the rest of the treasures they were preparing for a fair in the beginning of November: and they set to in good earnest to increase their stock in trade, by the capture of a few more bears.

Upon the first fall of snow, Amund, with his bear-pole and his dog, set out to track the bear to his den. This is generally in the autumn nothing more than a hollow bank,



with a few overhanging boughs loaded with snow, beneath which canopy the bear sleeps. When he is found, a dog is set to bark and tease the animal until he is roused and rears on his hind feet : for this he never fails to do, in order to grasp the man, whom he rightly judges to be his real foe.

The huntsman, who has all the while stood by, hiding, to the best of his power, the iron point of the pole he carries with him, giving his antagonist full credit for sagacity to detect his design but for this concealment, now suddenly advances ; and at the very moment when the bear is erect, the pike must be dexterously plunged into his heart. The weapon in question is a pole, with a strong four-sided iron pike at one end, and a small wheel at the other, which is used to prevent its sinking into the snow.

Amund was generally victorious ; but Niels had more than once suffered in these conflicts

The slightest failure, either in exact aim at a vital part, or in striking with sufficient force, is sure to be followed by vengeance from the bear. His turn comes next ; and his gripe is generally fatal ; though it sometimes happens, as it did in the case of another bear-hunt I told you of, (in which, you will recollect, Amund hardly escaped with life,) that a brother huntsman arrives to the rescue. Even then the first aggressor seldom escapes without fearful scars.

In the case of Niels, the bear had succeeded in tearing through his thick jacket, with his monstrous claws, and had laid bare the very bone of his shoulder, when his friend came up, and saved him.

In spite of these disasters, the huntsman usually goes with no other companion than his dog. For it is necessary that the bear's attention should be entirely engaged by the dog, that the huntsman may strike with the more

security. He rears, it is true, in order to fall on the man ; but he is so irritated by the continual barking of his lesser enemy, as to be completely off his guard against the thrust of the pike.

## CHAPTER XI.

Merchandize—Dishonesty of the Lapps—Fondness of Finery—Fur of the Ermine—Scarcity of the Lynx—Lapland Life—Wisdom of the Dispensations of Providence—Love of Country—Salutary Effects of the Climate—A Proposal.

AND now, before winter quite sets in, we must see old Niels and Marit, with their package of furs, off for one more fair. You may be sure that Karin was not left behind.

Their boats were laden with their merchandize. The skins, horns, and hides of rein-deer; the skins of bears, wolves and foxes; of the martin, which is often called the zibeline; and the three glutton-skins; besides a great lot of grey squirrel-skins, which is, you know, the minever, rolled up in bundles, about thirty or forty together.

I am sorry to say, there is sometimes a little cheating in these matters ; for as the skins are bought in lots, the Laplanders are not always very particuar as to their exact number or quality; but take good care never to give *more* than forty, and too often not a few bad ones in the lot.

In the rein-deer skins too, if killed in the spring, there are sure to be holes in various parts, occasioned by the perforations of the gad-fly ; but the Lapps have a way of closing these holes, so that they are not easily detected at the time of purchasing.

Niels, however, was a tolerably honest old man ; and his example taught Amund not to play any unfair tricks. They found, as is usual in all countries, that “ honesty is the best poliey ;” for the traders, pleased that they might be depended on, not only speedily took all their wares off their hands, but generally bestowed on them small presents, which were

very valuable in their eyes. Gay ribbons to ornament the women's caps, and bead necklaces are among the objects of serious barter.

You may imagine that when the traders get a good skin for a string of glass beads, they think they have the best of the bargain. But the Mrs. Lapps, for their part, are quite content with their trinkets, and as proud of them as any English lady can possibly be of her sparkling jewels.

The men, too, have no objection to a little finery. Niels and Amund had both of them, this year, new frocks of bright scarlet cloth, for grand holiday occasions; and Niels appeared at this fair in a girdle ornamented with squares of worked silver, which had belonged to his grandfather, and to his great-great-grandfather too, I dare say. It was like a coat-of-arms to him, and he would not have parted with it on any account; no, not for a dozen rein-deer, or even for a whole cask of brandy.

I had well nigh forgotten to tell you of one delicate article of their barter, and for which they obtained some of their best gunpowder, as well as no small portion of their favourite brandy ; and this was several lots of the fine white fur of the ermine.

This little creature is a species of weasel. Its length is about ten inches, besides its tail, which always has a tip of black at the end of it. In England they are of a brown colour throughout the year, and are called stoats ; but in all the northern regions, their delicate fur changes to a pure white in the winter months ; and they had been so diligently sought after in the early part of the year, while their coats were still in perfection, by our good little pigmy friends, that they were really esteemed great merchants, and made no small show at the fair.

I am told the sable is sometimes seen in Lapland ; but they are not mentioned by our

latest travellers; and, I believe, it is in Siberia they chiefly abound.

Amongst the wild beasts I have enumerated the lynx. Two species of these are occasionally found in Lapland; but they are so rare, that it never had been the good or ill fortune of Niels or Amund to meet with them. It is true that a skin of either would have been sold for a high price, especially if they had met with a purchaser who prized them on account of their being so seldom found in that country; but the ravage one of these fierce and active creatures might have committed amongst the herd would have been ill repaid by the price of its skin. In Norway, where also they are equally uncommon, these lynxes are called the wolf-goub, and the cat-goub. Dr. Clarke tells us that he tried in vain to procure a skin of either of them when he was at Drontheim.

Heinrich, too, had his bear's-skin to send,



and many other good skins of animals that he had contrived to catch in traps, or bring down with arrows while he was watching his reindeer. I am glad to tell you, that his old master was so well pleased with his care of the beasts, that he good-naturedly brought him back, besides what he had been commissioned to get in exchange, a fine brass girdle for his winter coat ; and you cannot think how happy poor Heinrich was whenever he put it on.

When Niels, and Marit, and Karin came back from the fair, it was time to go to the log-houses where the sledges were laid up, and to wrap themselves up thoroughly in their winter garments. All the Lapland rambles were now settled in their several homes, and looking forward to winter again.

And this is the round, year after year, of a Lapland life. During their *one day* of sunshine, the sun moves round the horizon with-

out either rising or setting. The only observable difference is that at mid-day he is, by a few degrees, more elevated than at midnight. And, of course, in consequence of this difference, those who are in low situations do, in fact, lose sight of him for about one hour in the four-and-twenty, while he is low in the horizon.

But the shortness of their summer, like every other dispensation of Providence, is wisely and mercifully ordered. Were such a season to be of much longer duration, the frames of the hardy natives would probably become too relaxed to bear the sharp extremity of cold to which they are exposed in winter. Much that seems comfortless to us, habit has rendered enjoyment to them; and much that I am afraid we should make subject of annoyance, they encounter with indifference, or forget in the tranquillity of repose.

The great contrast of heat and cold seems.

perhaps, unaccountable to you. But you must recollect that in England, during the sultriest summer weather, the heat and burden of the day is succeeded by the cool, pleasant twilight of evening ; and in India, and the other countries near the line, where the heat during the day is so intense the whole year through, the days and nights are, in the first place, always of equal length ; and that the heavy dews which cool the earth are therefore not so immediately evaporated : they have time to fulfil their office of reviving the drooping plants, and refreshing the wearied animals. Moreover, these alternate hours of gloom give rest to the throbbing temples, and the aching eye ; while during the brief Lapland summer, the sun burns on continually, and night after night,

“ Still fiercely sheds intolerable day. ”

Travellers tell us, that they never were

thoroughly aware of the blessing of darkness, till they had felt the painful effect of constant daylight upon their eyes, till they had lain down after a fatiguing, hot, and prolonged day, and, dazzled by the midnight sun, had tried in vain to rest. But the Laplanders themselves, from habit, are less sensible of this inconvenience ; and though we, who live in happier climes, perceive many actual evils belonging to their condition, yet

“The shudd’ring tenant of the frigid zone,  
Boldly proclaims the happiest spot his own.”

Nay, such is their attachment to their native soil, that if they are carried away, they, like the Swiss, are for the most part afflicted with a disease to which physicians have given a learned name, signifying “longing to return.”

The motto of a Laplander might well be, in

the language of the poet I have before quoted to you,

“Where'er I roam, whatever lands to see,  
My heart, untravell'd, fondly turns to thee.”

Linnæus, aided perhaps by a little of that imagination which can double the sum of what is good, and only too sadly aggravate the burden of what is evil, could exclaim, after a visit to Lapland, “Here a man may sleep *in a whole skin*, free from care, contention, and battle; free from envy, hatred, and malice. Here, like the birds, he may rejoice among the woods, while bounteous heaven provides him with ample sustenance. Oh, sacred innocence! thy throne must be sought amongst the tenants of the forests and the fields.”

The summer, by its glowing contrast with the chill gloom of winter, must bring with it much feeling of enjoyment; and when winter

does come, it has its "social hours," which, in the estimation of a Laplander, bring enjoyment too.

Then such is the bracing, and consequently cheering effects of the climate, that we have evidence in its favour afforded by every traveller who has visited the country during the winter season. You have felt what alacrity and joyousness a frosty day can bestow ; and I give you the very words of one of these travellers, in testimony that these blessings are not withheld from the inhabitants of the arctic regions. "The air is keen and dry ; and even when the frost is most intense, a person well wrapped in furs, and seated in his sledge, is never known to complain of those chilly sensations, and that coldness in the extremities which are produced by dampness in a more humid atmosphere."

These gallops over the snow would be very delightful to any one amongst us ; and away

let us go to see the good clergyman, who had long since returned from his pastoral visit, and who was now settled comfortably in his usual winter abode, close by the church.

## CHAPTER XII.

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Present to the Clergyman—Religion of the Laplanders—Sermon—Singing—Humanizing Effects of the Gospel—Rational Pleasures of a Country Life—Conclusion.

NIELS, in the kindness of his heart, had not forgotten the minister. He had brought him from the fair a small present of tea, which he had procured from the Russian merchants.

This tea is said to be peculiarly fine in flavour, for it is brought over-land from China, and consequently not injured, as tea is said to be always, more or less, by a sea-voyage: and we are told, moreover, that some of it is packed in the flowers and leaves of the fragrant olive. Though, most probably, Niels



would think more of its being of a good dark, *brandy-like* colour, when made into “tea-water,” as they call it, than of its very fine and delicate perfume. He added to this foreign rarity a few of his own rein-deer tongues, which Marit had carefully dried in the smoke of their own wood-fires.

The Laplanders are all Protestants: they do not practise any of the superstitious ceremonies of Popery; but as they are still a very ignorant people, you may believe that many strange ideas are blended with their worship. Their natural indolence, and their long journeys in the open air, make them also a sad sleepy congregation; and Dr. Clarke, from whom I have obtained so much of my information, gives a very comical description of the preaching of a minister at Enontekis, and of the method adopted, from time to time, to rouse the assembled party from their slumbers.

“The whole church was crowded, and even the gallery full: many of the wild Nomade Laplanders being present in their strange dresses. The sermon appeared to us the most remarkable part of the ceremony. According to the custom of the country, it was an extemporaneous harangue; that is, preached without being previously written down. It was delivered in a tone of voice so elevated that the worthy pastor seemed to labour as if he would burst a blood-vessel. He continued exerting his lungs in this manner during one hour and twenty minutes, as if his audience had been stationed on the top of a distant mountain. Afterwards, he was so hoarse he could hardly articulate another syllable.

“One would have thought it impossible to doze during a discourse that made our ears ring; yet some of the Lapps were fast asleep, and would have snored, but that a sexton, habited like themselves, walked about with a

long and stout pole, with which he continued to strike the floor ; and if this did not rouse them, he drove it forcibly against their ribs, or suffered it to fall with all its weight upon their skulls.

“ After the sermon, singing commenced : it consisted of a selection of some verses from the Psalms ; which, notwithstanding what has been said of the vocal music of Lapland, were devoutly and harmoniously chanted. It was impossible to listen to the loud and full chorus of a rude people, thus celebrating the triumph of religion over the most wretched ignorance and superstition, without calling to mind the sublime language of ancient prophecy : ‘ The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad ; the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing.’

“ As we accompanied the minister to his house, we ventured to ask the reason of the

very loud tone of voice he had used in preaching. He said he was aware that it must appear extraordinary to a stranger ; but that if he were to address the Laplanders in a lower key they would consider him as a feeble and powerless missionary, wholly unfit for his office, and would never come to church. For the merit and abilities of the preacher are always estimated amongst them by the strength of his voice."

Still, when we compare the condition of the Laplanders with that of the nations who have never heard the doctrines of the Bible, we shall find that, rude though they may be, the advantage is greatly on their side.

The population spread over Lapland is estimated at sixty thousand souls ; yet we hear of no annual wars amongst them, such as Franklin in his "Journey to the Polar Seas," speaks of as constant among the Indians of the northern parts of America. Mur-

ders are seldom perpetrated ; and they are comparatively an industrious race ; for we may fairly say that they work as far as is necessary to provide honestly for their moderate wants. Their mode of life seems in many respects dreary and comfortless to us, certainly ; but we know from repeated instances that so dearly do they “love their mountains, and enjoy their storms,” that whenever any of them are induced to leave their native land for any length of time, they pine and sicken, and, we may believe, would die if they could not once more breathe the keen air which has braced their nerves from infancy to manhood.

One of our favourite poets has said “God made the country, and man made the town ;” and, perhaps, we could scarcely cite a stronger amongst the manifold proofs how wonderfully the Almighty Father has adapted all things to the beings he created to “replenish the

earth, and to subdue it," than the simple fact, that, with all the accommodations, and all the luxuries devised by man to make the crowded city pleasant, we find that as long as one trace of the "image of God" remains on his soul, he generally rejoices to escape from its turmoil; and that he will pine amidst all the profusion of artificial life, for the rudest home, where nature's hand is manifest, and nature's simplest gifts are fresh springing around him.

As you value true happiness, my dear children, I entreat you to cultivate in your minds an ardent love for the pure, and rational pleasures of a country life. Your lot may be cast amongst the busy haunts of men, it is true; but the quiet tastes, and active powers of mind already acquired will aid you, even then, to moderate your wishes and expectations; and will enable you, even there, to endure the obscurity

that must be the portion of the many in the struggle for distinction and wealth.

It is not the "poor Indian," alone who "sees God in clouds, and hears him in the wind." The essential difference between the "tutored" and "untutored mind" lies not in acknowledging the agency of Providence : but ignorance, especially in the sublimer manifestations of his power, disposes us to entreat, like the Israelites amidst the terrors of Mount Sinai, that God will never again speak to us after this manner ; while the study of his unerring laws, whether in the government of the material world, or as they have been taught us by the prophets of old, and by the Holy Jesus himself, when he took upon him the form of man, and dwelt among us, and by his apostles after him, this study will endue us not only with the faculty of discerning how "all things work together for good ;" but will, more-

over, by the blessing of his Holy Spirit, nourish and increase in us that true religion, that perfect love which “casteth out fear.”

THE END.









